



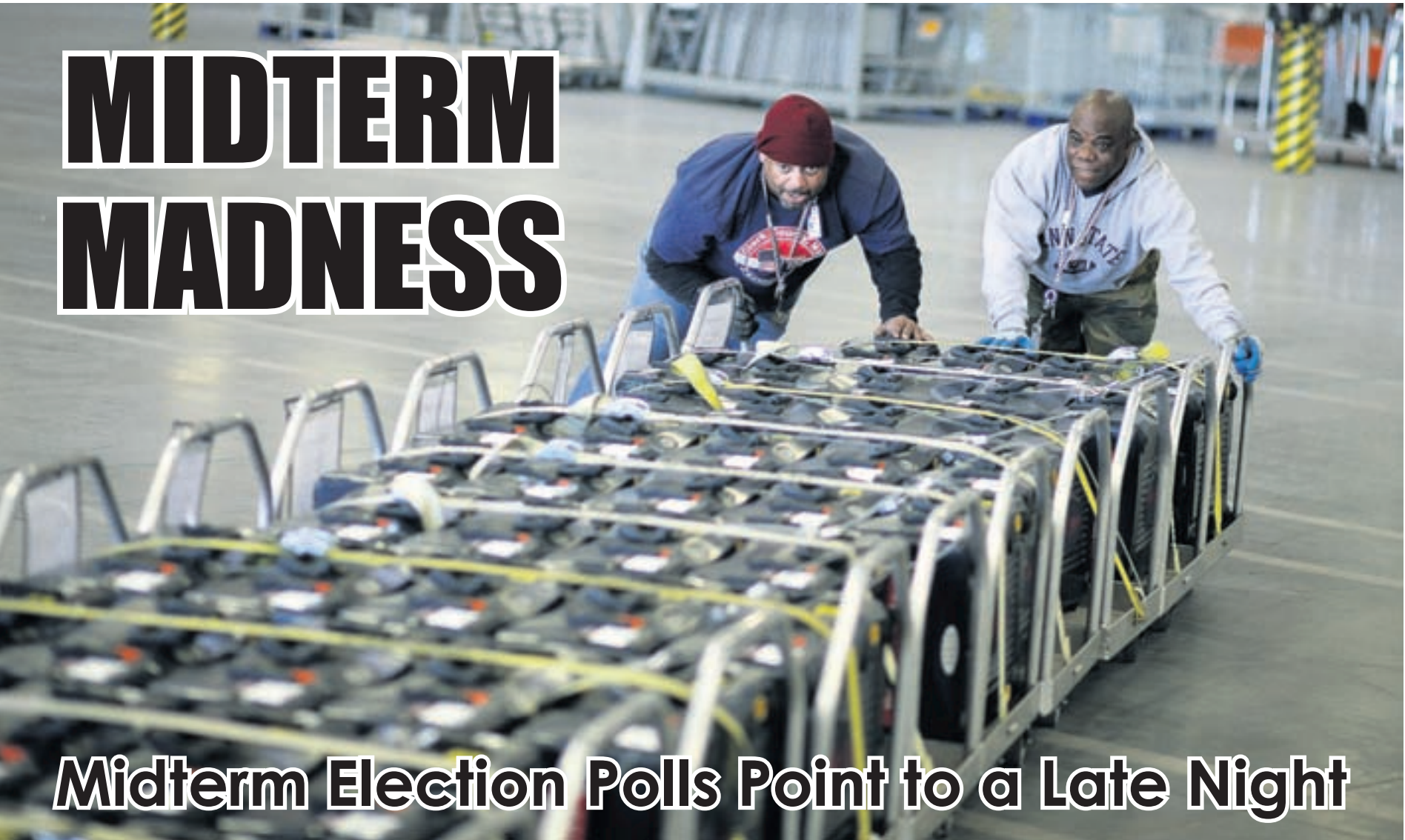
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# Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: +297 582-7800 Tuesday, November 4, 2014



## MIDTERM MADNESS

### Midterm Election Polls Point to a Late Night

Clark County election workers Nick Liriano, left, and Timothy Nyepanh load voting machines onto trucks at the Clark County Election Warehouse Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, in North Las Vegas, Nev. The machines will be used for midterm elections on Tuesday.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

**JONATHAN WEISMAN  
ASHLEY PARKER**  
© 2014 New York Times  
**WASHINGTON** - The most expensive midterm elections in American history moved toward what could be an inconclusive finish on Monday, the last full day of campaigning before Election Day. Polls show control of the Senate trending Republican but still up for grabs and an angry electorate unclear on what it wants from Washington in Barack Obama's final two years as president. Unlike in previous midterms

when the party out of power made strong gains, Republican candidates did not carry a defined platform into the elections of 2014, nor did they campaign on policy specifics. Instead, they have been supported by a bitter electorate that is far less sure of its views than the voters who propelled Republican majorities in both chambers in 1994, gave Congress back to the Democrats in 2006 and swept Republicans to control of the House in 2010. A new poll conducted by

NBC News and The Wall Street Journal on Monday found that likely voters favor Republican control of Congress by a single percentage point, 46 percent to 45 percent. The same poll showed voters favoring Republicans 49 percent to 43 percent in 2010 just before Republicans seized control of the House and made large gains in the Senate. A batch of new state polls show Senate control is anybody's guess, despite widespread statistical predictions showing Republicans

as heavily favored to win a majority. In New Hampshire, a poll by WMUR and the University of New Hampshire gave Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, the incumbent Democrat, a 2-point lead over Scott Brown, the former Republican senator from Massachusetts. A Quinnipiac University poll put the Iowa Senate race between Rep. Bruce Braley, a Democrat, and state Sen. Joni Ernst, a Republican, dead even, after a Des Moines Register poll showed Ernst pulling away by 7 points just a day

before. In Colorado, Quinnipiac showed Rep. Cory Gardner, a Republican, leading the incumbent Sen. Mark Udall, a Democrat, by 2 percentage points, keeping that race too close to call as well. Polling still points to likely runoffs in Louisiana and Georgia, where no candidate appears capable of mustering more than 50 percent of the vote on Election Day. Between those two races and a late vote count in Alaska, where Sen.

**Continued on page 2**



# Midterm Election Polls Point to a Late Night

**Continued from Front**

Mark Begich, the incumbent Democrat, and Dan Sullivan, the Republican, are closely matched, Senate control may not be determined Tuesday night.

All of the differences in these polls are statistically insignificant, falling within the margins of sampling error.

For all the spending and all the nail-biting on races this year, the stakes of the 2014 cycle are not that high. President Barack Obama will still be in office to defend his health care law and other Democratic accomplishments against Republican efforts to reverse them. And Republican leaders in Congress will have to wrestle with political crosscurrents in their own party that could affect their ability to confront the president or to work with him.

Interest in the election is also at a record low. The NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll found that only half of voters said they were interested in the election, down slightly from the 51 percent who were interested in June. In October 2010, 61 percent were interested, up from 51 percent the previous June. The numbers were similar in 2006, before Democrats took back control of Congress.

At least three Republicans - Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida - are eyeing runs for their party's 2016 presidential nomination. They will be tempted to move to the right to appeal to Republican presidential base voters. Cruz, in an interview with The Washington Post, said over the weekend that a Republican-led Senate should hold Obama accountable for his policies, and urged his colleagues to aggressively pursue a repeal of the president's signature health care law. At the same time, many more Republicans elect-

ed in the Tea Party wave of 2010 and now getting ready to stand for re-election in Democratic or swing states in 2016 will want to tack to the center. Freshman Republican senators from New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and Missouri could have very different political imperatives than their counterparts running for the White House.

"Quite frankly, going into 2016, the Republicans have to make a decision whether they're in control or not in control," Vice President Joe Biden said in an interview with CNN on Monday. "Are they gonna begin to allow things to happen? Or are they gonna continue to be obstructionists? And I think they're gonna choose to get things done."

If cooperation is what they seek, Republicans and the White House could make common cause in the decades-old quest to overhaul and simplify the tax code. Next year, if the parties cannot come together, deep across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration will return, hitting defense programs favored by Republicans and domestic programs favored by Democrats.

If resurgent Republicans favor confrontation, a Republican Senate would give them the power to



**Supporters cheer for Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) at a rally in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 3, 2014. The most expensive midterm elections in American history moved toward what could be an inconclusive finish on Monday, the last full day of campaigning before Election Day.**

(Todd Heisler/The New York Times)

try to send to Obama policies that they have talked about for years: balancing the budget quickly, converting Medicare into a program that provides vouchers for seniors to purchase private insurance, turning Medicaid into block grants to the states, and shackling regulatory agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the new Consumer Financial Protection Board.

Republicans would also have to decide how hard they will push to repeal or scale back the president's

health care law.

Republicans ran a highly localized campaign, focusing on individual races specifically geared toward each state; unlike Republicans in 1994 and Democrats in 2006, they did not offer a sweeping platform of reforms that could serve as their governing blueprint nationally should they win. Democrats, meanwhile, are hoping that their multimillion-dollar gamble on a robust ground game - intended to make the off-year electorate more closely resemble a presi-

dential election, in which Democrats typically do better - will pay off. But motivating reliable Democratic constituencies - unmarried women, minorities and young voters - to turn out in a midterm election year has always been more difficult than in presidential election years, and perhaps even more so in a climate where the president's approval ratings hover in the low-40s.

Early voting results do indicate that Democrats in some states, particularly in Iowa and North Carolina, are doing better than they did in 2010.

But such efforts usually matter only when results are extremely close. If Tuesday breaks to the Republicans, the Democrats' ground game could prove less than adequate.

Some pollsters say that Democrats were always facing a steep disadvantage. "I am not sure Democrats could have done much differently given how hostile the map is for them," said Jennifer Duffy, senior editor of the nonpartisan Cook Political Report. "The Wednesday morning quarterbacking will be loud, and include voices who don't have a clue as to what they are talking about." □



**Political supporters for a slate of Democratic candidates attend a rally Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, in New York's Times Square. The election is Tuesday.**

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)





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# Egypt, Gulf Arab allies eye anti-militant alliance

**HAMZA HENDAWI**

**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait are discussing the creation of a military pact to take on Islamic militants, with the possibility of a joint force to intervene around the Middle East, The Associated Press has learned.

The alliance would also serve as a show of strength to counterbalance their traditional rival, Shiite-dominated, Iran. Two countries are seen as potential theaters for the alliance to act, senior Egyptian military officials said: Libya, where Islamic militants have taken over several cities, and Yemen, where Shiite rebels suspected of links to Iran have seized control of the capital.

The discussions reflect a new assertiveness among the Middle East's Sunni powerhouses, whose governments — after three years of post-Arab Spring turmoil in the region — have increasingly come to see Sunni Islamic militants and Islamist political movements as a threat.

The U.S. Arab allies' consideration of a joint force illustrates a desire to go beyond the international coalition that the United States has put together to wage an air campaign against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have participated in those strikes in Syria. The officials said the alliance under consideration was not intended to intervene in Iraq or Syria but to act separately to address other extremist hot spots.

Three Egyptian military officials discussed details of the talks and a fourth confirmed their comments.

A Gulf official, who is aware

of the discussions, also told The Associated Press that the governments were coordinating on how to deal with Libya, and the talks were "ongoing on wider cooperation on how to deal with extremists in the region." He and the Egyptian officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks remain secret.

Talks on an alliance against extremists are well advanced, the Egyptian officials said. But the further idea of forming a joint force is more distant, and there are differences among the countries over the size of any force, funding and headquarters, and over whether to seek Arab League or U.N. political cover for operations, one of the Egyptian officials said. Past attempts at a pan-Arab military force have fallen apart.

Still, even if no joint force is agreed on, the alliance would coordinate military action, aiming at quick, pinpoint operations against militants rather than longer missions, the officials said.

The countries have already shown an unprecedented willingness to intervene together. Egypt and the UAE cooperated in carrying out airstrikes against Islamic militants in Libya during the summer, according to U.S. and Egyptian officials, and last month Egypt carried out strikes of its own. Egypt's government has denied both operations. Egypt's president, former military chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, has warned repeatedly that Islamic extremists must be dealt with in multiple places, not just in Iraq and Syria. In a September interview with the AP, he said "a comprehensive counterterrorism strategy in



**U.S. President Barack Obama meets with Saudi King Abdullah about a coalition to tackle the extremist Islamic State group, at Rawdat Khuraim, Saudi Arabia. U.S. Arab allies Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait are discussing creation of a military pact to take on Islamic militants, with the possibility of a joint force to intervene around the Middle East, The Associated Press has learned in Nov. 2014.**

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

the region" is needed. In Washington, asked if the U.S. was aware of the discussions, Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said, "We're not privy to that. I wouldn't speak to it." He would not elaborate.

The spokesman for Egypt's presidency, Alaa Youssef, denied that creating a joint rapid deployment force, complete with a headquarters, was part of the "routine" discussions between Egypt and its Arab

allies on a strategy to combat extremism.

The Egyptian military officials said top generals from the countries — including at times, their chiefs of staff — have held multiple rounds of talks. □

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## World Trade Center reopens, 13 years after attack

**VERENA DOBNIK**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The silvery skyscraper that rose from the ashes of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks to

day of work there. The opening of the country's tallest building, One World Trade Center, marked a symbolic return to a sense of normalcy for

city of New York and New Jersey, which owns both the building and the World Trade Center site. Steps away from the new 1,776-foot (541-meter) tow-

Vogue, The New Yorker and Vanity Fair, is expected to move in about 3,000 more employees by early next year, eventually occupying 25 floors of the \$3.9

be a terrorist target. Foye countered that it's "the most secure office building in America." And its chief architect, T.J. Gottesdiener, said the high-rise was built with steel-reinforced concrete that makes it as terror attack-proof as possible — much stronger than the original towers that collapsed when the hijacked planes hit. The stairwells are built with a hardened concrete core, and wider to allow firefighters to move while people exit. The building's mechanical systems are also encased in hardened concrete.

"If my son told me he had a job in the trade center Tower 1, I would have no qualms about him being there," Gottesdiener said. One World Trade Center is 60 percent leased. Its eight-year construction came after years of political, financial and legal infighting that threatened to derail the project.

The area has prospered in recent years. About 60,000 more residents now live in the area — three times more than before 9/11 — keeping streets, restaurants and shops alive even after Wall Street and other offices close for the day.

Still, it's a bittersweet victory. "The city and the world were watching us, and we had to do it right, to do it better than before," Gottesdiener said. "And we did it, we finally did it." □



One World Trade Center, center, stands between the transportation hub, left, still under construction, and 7 World Trade Center, second from right, Monday, Nov. 3, 2014 in New York. Thirteen years after the 9/11 terrorist attack, the resurrected World Trade Center is again opening for business, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the United States as a whole. Publishing giant Conde Nast will start moving Monday into One World Trade Center, a 104-story, \$3.9 billion skyscraper that dominates the Manhattan skyline.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

become a symbol of American resilience opened for business Monday, as 175 employees of the magazine publishing giant Conde Nast settled into their first

the site where the twin towers fell more than 13 years ago. "The New York City skyline is whole again," said Patrick Foye, executive director of the Port Author-

er are two memorial fountains built on the footprints of the decimated towers, a reminder of the more than 2,700 people who died. Conde Nast, publisher of

billion, 104-story tower. Privately, some Conde Nast employees acknowledged that they were nervous about working in a skyscraper that could again



# White House: Ferguson no-fly didn't restrict press

**JACK GILLUM,**  
**JOAN LOWY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Monday a no-fly zone the U.S. government imposed over Ferguson, Missouri, for nearly two weeks in August should not have restricted helicopters for news organizations that wanted to operate in the area to cover violent protests there. Audio recordings obtained by The Associated Press showed the Federal Aviation Administration working with local authorities to define a 37-square-mile flight restriction so that only police helicopters and commercial flights could fly through the area, following demonstrations over the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

The Obama administration's defense of its actions centered on a provision of obscure federal regulations intended to allow press flights as long as they meet certain conditions. White House spokesman Josh Earnest sidestepped questions about conversations on the tapes showing police working with the FAA to keep media away.

"In this case, what the FAA says is that they took the prudent step of implementing the temporary flight restriction in the immediate aftermath of reports of shots fired at a police helicopter, but within 12 to 14 hours, that flight restriction

was updated in a way to remove restrictions for reporters who were seeking to operate in the area," Earnest said.

In Missouri, St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar defended his department's involvement Monday, tell-

dated restrictions would allow planes to land at nearby Lambert-St. Louis International Airport but, "It will still keep news people out. ... The only way people will get in there is if they give them permission in there anyway so ... it still keeps all

charges for fatally shooting Brown on Aug. 9. Violence flared for weeks across the city through September, and the FAA put the first temporary flight restrictions, known as TFRs, in place on Aug. 11.

The police chief said the

FAA manager talks to another about renegotiating with police over the size of the restricted area and persuading authorities to accept one with a lower altitude than they initially wanted. Attorney General Eric Holder said Monday the Justice Department was not involved in the FAA considerations and said the American public needs to understand what is happening in Ferguson.

"Anything that would artificially inhibit the ability of newsgatherers to do what they do is something I think needs to be avoided," Holder said Monday.

At the White House, Earnest stressed that under FAA rules the no-fly zone as it was re-designated after Aug. 12 would have exempted press flights as long as pilots had filed flight plans and carried accredited reporters on board.

"The updated flight restriction didn't have any impact on media access."

But the administration's statement about what it believes should have happened under the no-fly rules is inconsistent with what actually happened during the period. None of the St. Louis television stations was advised that media helicopters could enter the airspace even under the lesser restrictions, even under federal rules that would have permitted flights "carrying properly accredited news representatives."



**St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar speaks during a news conference, Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, in Clayton, Mo. Belmar talked about the restrictions of airspace around demonstrations following the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.**

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)


ing reporters that "at no time did we request that only media be kept out of the airspace." The chief said the safety restrictions were prompted by reports of gunfire and that conversations on the tapes were "out of context." He did not elaborate.

On the tapes, an FAA manager is heard assuring a St. Louis County Police Department official that the up-


of them out." "Yeah," replied a county police captain. "I have no problem with that whatsoever."

The disclosures about the secret motivations by local police to keep press flights away emerged during a sensitive time in Ferguson, which is awaiting a decision by a grand jury whether a city police officer, Darren Wilson, will face criminal

FAA contacted police first about restricting flights. The audio recordings between the department and the FAA indicated it was the police who wanted the restrictions — and that FAA officials accommodated them. "Were you the gentleman I spoke to that actually issued the TFR?" the FAA manager asked. "Yes," the police captain replied. Elsewhere in the tapes, one




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## American Living:

# Low oil prices send chills through American oil patch

**JOSH WOOD**

**JOHN FAHEY**

AP Writers

**WILLISTON, N.D. (AP)** — Marcus Jundt moved to Williston from Minnesota almost four years ago and has opened four restaurants there since. Food isn't propelling his business, though. It's oil.

"Everything I've done in Williston is a derivative of oil," he says.

That oil has averaged \$96 a barrel over the past four years, fueling more drilling, more hiring, and bigger appetites in North Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma and elsewhere. Now oil has hit a rough patch, plunging to \$80 from \$107 in June on fears of a global glut. Many expect these lower prices are to stick around for a while.

Lower oil prices, while good for the broader U.S. economy, are a threat to what has been a surprising and dramatic surge in oil production in the U.S., and to drilling communities that have come to depend on oil money.

"If the price gets low enough and stays there long enough I'm sure it will affect the number of people and the amount of money that will be spent in the greater community — and I have exposure to that," Jundt says.

U.S. oil production has gone up by 3.5 million barrels per day, or 70 percent, since 2008. High prices fueled the boom, providing oil companies the profits and investor cash to buy up land, pay for drilling rigs, and develop new technol-

ogy. Places like Williston, a once-sleepy farming town, thrived with increased economic activity, well-paying jobs and rising tax revenue. Prices would have to fall lower, and stay low for a while, to turn the U.S. oil boom into a bust. Wells

ing new expansion without hopes for a big reward and oil companies big and small are left with less money to go and drill the next well.

BP, Chevron and Shell told investors last week they would reduce spending

County need \$81 a barrel on average to break even, according to the Department of Mineral Resources, while the price is just \$28 in McKenzie County, the state's top oil producing county.

North Dakota Department

made on the capital they spent has fallen by half since 2000, even as oil prices increased. "The recent price drop in global crude prices will only add to these financial challenges," said IHS's Daniel Pratt.

For now, boomtowns like Williston are still going strong. Hotels are full, restaurants like Jundt's are packed with tired rough-necks and roads are choked with hulking oil field trucks.

But when drillers cut costs, communities will eventually feel it. "I haven't noticed anything yet," says Bert Anderson, mayor of Crosby, a small town just south of the Canadian border where oil is particularly expensive to produce. But if oil stays at current prices, "eventually it will have an impact," he says.

Helms says that the state's next two-year budget may have to be revised because the preliminary budget forecast was based on \$90 a barrel.

Some say a small slowdown could have some upside. Local governments in drilling regions are straining to keep up with demand for new services and infrastructure to deal with population increases and the new economic activity. It might even help drillers who have had trouble finding enough workers and equipment.

"A little bit of a slowdown to give everyone a chance to take their breath isn't all a bad thing," says Ben Shepard, of the Permian Basin Association in Midland, Texas. "The industry has been white hot for so long."



**Austin Mitchell walks away from an oil derrick outside of Williston, N.D. Lower oil prices, while good for the broader U.S. economy, are a threat to what has been a surprising and dramatic surge in oil production in the U.S., and to drilling communities that have come to depend on oil money.**

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

that are already producing won't be shut off and enormous projects with long-time horizons will still be built.

Many drillers have funded next year's drilling plans by selling oil in the futures market.

Still, a \$20 drop in the price of oil means \$170 million less in revenue every day for the U.S. oil industry.

Investors are less willing to take on the risk of fund-

on new development because of lower prices.

Mike McDonald, co-owner of Triad Energy, which usually operates 1 or 2 rigs in Oklahoma, says that low prices have stung and now he's not planning to get another rig going after current projects are complete. Drilling in fields that aren't very prolific will stop because it won't be profitable. For example, drillers in North Dakota's Burke

of Mineral Resources director Lynn Helms says companies are looking to cut costs on such things as electricity generation and water disposal. He says the average operating cost of a well has risen 36 percent in the past year to \$15,000 a month, mirroring an industry-wide struggle with higher costs. The analysis firm IHS calculates in a report released Monday that the income that oil and gas companies





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## US Financial Front:

# Lower gas prices boost American SUV sales in October

**TOM KRISHER**  
**DEE-ANN DURBIN**  
**AP Auto Writers**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Falling gas prices improved buyers' moods and boosted sales of SUVs and trucks in October.

GM, Toyota, Chrysler, Nissan, Volkswagen and Honda all reported sales gains last month. Only Ford's sales fell 2 percent as it cut back on F-Series pickup sales ahead of the launch of a new F-150 later this year. Analysts expected industry sales to rise 6 percent over last October.

The national average price of gasoline fell 33 cents to end October at \$3 a gallon, according to AAA. Gasoline is now the cheapest it has been in four years, and the decline accelerated a trend toward SUVs and trucks that has been going on all year.

"Gas prices coming down added a little bit of fuel to the fire, but that fire was already roaring," said Alec Gutierrez, a senior analyst with Kelley Blue Book.

Small SUVs have been the fastest growing segment in the U.S. this year, and now make up one out of every four vehicles sold, says Jesse Toprak, the chief sales analyst for the car buying site Cars.com.

But gas prices fueled sales of bigger SUVs. Kelley Blue Book saw renewed interest in the mammoth Hummer H1 last month, for example. Sales of the recently redesigned Lincoln Navigator eight-passenger SUV jumped 38 percent, while Chevrolet Tahoe sales rose 6 percent.

Gas prices also convinced small business owners to go ahead and buy pickup trucks, Toprak said. GMC

Sierra sales jumped 12.5 percent in October. Ram pickup sales were up 33 percent.

Fuel economy is no longer

top of mind for most buyers, according to annual survey taken by J.D. Power and Associates in June. Last year it ranked No. 3 on the list of

reasons why people buy cars. This year it dropped to No. 6 behind reliability, styling, brand preference, ride and handling, reputation

and price.

As a result, hybrid sales are suffering. Sales of Ford's C-Max hybrid dropped 22.5 percent in October, while Toyota Prius sales were down 13.5 percent.

But sales of some small cars rose. Lower gas prices can help first-time buyers and others feel comfortable enough to buy a new car. Sales of the newly redesigned Honda Fit subcompact were up 83 percent in October, for example, while sales of the Nissan Sentra small car rose 56 percent. "Lower gas prices are actually a tide that floats all ships," said Jessica Caldwell, a senior analyst with the car buying site Edmunds.com.

General Motors' overall U.S. sales rose just 0.2 percent to 226,819. Chevy Cruze compact car sales were up 51 percent, largely due to increases in fleet sales to governments and rental car companies.



A 2015 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4WD LTZ Crew Cab pickup truck is seen at Miami Lakes Auto-Mall in Miami Lakes, Fla. General Motors on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014 said its October U.S. sales rose slightly as pickup truck sales jumped while some top-selling car models faltered.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

## US construction spending dips for second month

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. construction spending fell for a second straight month in September as a slight rebound in housing was offset by further declines in nonresidential building and in government projects.

Construction spending dropped 0.4 percent in September compared to August when spending fell 0.5 percent, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

After four straight monthly declines, housing construction edged up 0.4 percent in September but nonresidential building fell 0.6

percent with weakness in construction of hospitals, power plants and factories. Government construction was also down, falling 1.3 percent as spending on projects at the federal and state and local levels declined. The overall declines in the past two months were disappointing but economists say the weakness will be temporary. They are looking for construction activity to support economic growth in coming months. The September drop pushed construction spending down to \$950.9 billion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, still a modest 2.9 percent higher

than the level a year ago. The increase in housing reflected a solid 1.1 percent gain in construction of single-family homes which helped offset a 1 percent drop in the smaller apartment sector. Residential construction, which had fallen for four straight months, now stands at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$349.1 billion, a slight 0.7 percent higher than a year ago. The decline in government activity reflected a 0.3 percent drop in spending at the federal level and a 1.4 percent decline in spending at the state and local levels. Government construction

activity has been squeezed by tight budgets reflecting the severe 2007-2009 recession and the weak economic rebound since that time. The overall economy grew at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the July-September quarter, a solid performance but slower than the 4.2 percent growth spurt in the April-June period. Residential construction expanded at a 1.8 percent rate in the third quarter, a slower pace than the 8.8 percent rate of gain in the spring. Business spending on structure also slowed to growth at a 3.8 percent rate, down from a 12.6 percent jump in the spring.



**Stung last year;**

# Retailers and shippers retool for the holiday season

**RACHEL ABRAMS**

© 2014 New York Times

This year, Santa's reindeer will be huffing and puffing their way from the North Pole, carrying more than they usually do.

Americans are expected to buy a record \$89 billion worth of gifts online this holiday season, according to a new report from Forrester Research.

That's a 13 percent jump over last year, when hundreds of millions of gifts and bad weather overtaxed United Parcel Service and FedEx, leading to shipping delays and empty space under the tree.

Given the expected spike in online sales, the big question will be whether retailers and carriers can plan well enough to avoid the same problems.

"Is it a redux of last year, or did we learn any lessons to fix the problem?" said Sucharita Mulpuru, an analyst with Forrester, who wrote the report predicting this year's holiday sales.

UPS expects to ship 585 million packages in Decem-

ber, 11 percent more than last year, when it shipped 31 million parcels on Dec. 23. This year, the carrier,

year, and we were planning together with them for their volume forecasting," she said.



**The holidays are on at Walmart! Starting now customers can take advantage of 20,000 rollbacks in stores and access even more deals on walmart.com. This year, Santa's reindeer will be huffing and puffing their way from the North Pole, carrying more than they usually do. Americans are expected to buy a record \$89 billion worth of gifts online this holiday season, according to a new report from Forrester Research.**

(Brandon Wade/Invision for Walmart/AP Images)

which ships an average of 17 million packages a day, is preparing to send 34 million pieces of mail on Dec. 22, according to a spokeswoman, Susan Rosenberg. "We started talking to our customers much earlier this

UPS and FedEx, which typically hire tens of thousands of extra workers around the holiday season, plan to hire even more this year, both companies said. And they are taking other steps, like adding more sorting facili-

ties and technology to help track packages.

At the same time, they will also be crossing their fingers to avoid the abysmal weather that delayed shipments last year (FedEx even has 15 full-time meteorologists on staff).

But the onus is not just on the carriers. Major retailers like Wal-Mart and Target are also taking steps to make sure customers get their gifts on time.

Target is planning an even bigger marketing push to get customers who order online to pick up their gifts in the store, a feature the company introduced last year, a Target spokesman, Eddie Baeb, said. In-store pickup now accounts for about 15 percent of all online Target orders, he said.

Wal-Mart, with its major rural footprint, has offered in-store pickup since 2007. The service could appeal to customers who live in remote areas where home delivery is more difficult.

"I don't know what the attractiveness of free pickup is except that not every-

body lives in an apartment with a doorman and a lot of people live out somewhere where dropping off at a house is not so trustworthy," said Bernard Sosnick, an analyst with Gilford Securities. In-store pickup has the added benefit of drawing in foot traffic, something brick-and-mortar stores have struggled with as the popularity of online shopping has risen.

"If they're any good," said Richard Jaffe, an analyst with Stifel Nicolaus, "once you're in the store they're going to tempt you with a lot of other stuff."

In-store pickup also allows stores to avoid the cost of shipping - and perhaps most important, free shipping, which retailers have increasingly offered to stay competitive.

"In the world of ubiquitous free shipping, one could make the argument that in-store pickup is directly accretive to the bottom line, because you don't have to eat the cost of shipping and distribution," said Stephen Beck, founder of cg42, a management consultancy firm.

For customers who prefer to have gifts shipped to their home this holiday season, major retailers and carriers have begun working together to predict mail volumes and shipping routes. To help avoid delays, Wal-Mart, for example, began feeding information to its carriers three weeks earlier than normal, starting in mid-August, according to a spokeswoman, Jaeme Laczowski.

Retailers will have to commit to specific shipment volumes, and carriers may charge extra fees, or reject shipments outright, if they exceed those amounts.

"We're not going to jeopardize the efficient operations of the network," said Rosenberg, the UPS spokeswoman.

Carriers are also relying on retailers to ship more packages from stores themselves, instead of from distribution centers.

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## Islamic State group massacres more families

**SAMEER N. YACCOUB**

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State group militants shot and killed 36 Sunni tribesmen, women and children in public Monday, an Iraqi official and a tribal leader said, pushing the total number of members slain by the extremists in recent days to more than 200.

Sheik Naim al-Gaoud, a senior figure in the Al Bu Nimr tribe, said the militant group killed 29 men, four women and three children, lining them up in the village of Ras al-Maa, north of Ramadi in Anbar province.

The tribal leader said that 120 families were still trapped there.

"These massacres will be repeated in the coming days unless the government and its security forces help the trapped people," al-Gaoud said.

An official with the Anbar governor's office corroborated the account of Monday's killings. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to brief journalists.

Some Sunnis in Anbar province supported the militants when they seized Fallujah and parts of Ramadi in December. That came after widespread Sunni protests against the Shiite-led government in Baghdad for what they described as second-class treatment.

At least 214 members of the Al Bu Nimr tribe have been killed recently by the Islamic State group. Analysts believe IS may be trying to take revenge for the tribe's siding with Iraqi security forces and, in the past, with U.S. forces. The killings are also likely intended as a warning to other Sunni tribes.

A number of Sunni tribes have played an important role in stalling the IS ad-

vance across Iraq, taking up arms and fighting alongside Iraqi security forces. A U.S.-led campaign of airstrikes is targeting the group as well, with nine strikes hitting its fighters Sunday and Monday in Beiji, Fallujah and Ar Rutbah, U.S. Central Command said.

Meanwhile, IS claimed responsibility for two bombing attacks against Shiite Muslim pilgrims that killed 23 people in Baghdad on Sunday.

In a statement, the group boasted that the bombings took place despite the tight security measures protecting the Shiites' "biggest infidel event." The attacks targeted pilgrims on their way to the holy city of Karbala to mark the Ashoura holiday.

Ashoura commemorates the 7th-century death of Imam Hussein, a grandson of Prophet Muhammad and an iconic martyr among Shiites. Sunni insurgents frequently target Shiites, whom they consider heretics.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the reported massacres of the Al Bu Nimr tribe and other attacks on Shiite pilgrims "proves once again that ISIL does not represent anything but its warped ideology," using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

The attacks provide "more evidence, if any were needed, why our coalition partners, including Iraqis from every background, must work together to defeat these terrorists," Psaki said Monday.

Also Monday, police said a bomb struck a group of Shiite pilgrims, killing five people and wounding 11 in Baghdad's southwestern suburb of Nahrawan.

Another bomb blast on a

commercial street killed three people and wounded 11 others in Baghdad's

western district of Amil, police said. In the western suburbs of Baghdad, po-

lice said a roadside bomb blast struck an army patrol, killing two soldiers. □



Iraqi civilians gather the morning after a car bombing in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Nov. 3, 2014. A car bomb targeting Shiite pilgrims killed and wounded scores of people late Sunday in Baghdad's eastern district of Sadr City, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Ali Abdul Hassan)

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This photo shows the Belleville-sur-Loire's nuclear plant, across the Loire river, central France. French security chiefs are investigating a spate of mysterious and illegal overflights of French nuclear power stations by tiny, unmanned drones. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

## France: Mystery drones fly over nuclear sites

**JAMEY KEATEN**  
**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — French security officials are investigating a spate of mysterious and illegal flights by drone aircraft over more than a dozen nuclear power stations in France, raising security concerns in a country that largely lives off atomic energy.

In what environmental activists call a worrisome development, authorities have tallied at least 15 overflights of nuclear sites since early October, culminating Friday with five at separate sites, government and utility officials said Monday.

Authorities would not speculate about who could be behind the overflights or what their motive might be. But prospects ranged from would-be terrorist scouts, economic spies, a political or environmental group, or even a hobbyist playing an illegal joke.

Environment and Energy Minister Segolene Royal said there are no leads

as to who was behind the flights.

"We don't underestimate these incidents, we don't overdramatize them either," Royal told i-Tele TV, saying France's nuclear sites have been prepared for possible earthquakes or plane crashes and suggesting drones were a lower risk.

Drones have vaulted into public awareness in recent years, ranging from ones as large as planes used by the CIA to bomb terrorist suspects, to small ones bought by hobbyists and media organizations for fun or news-gathering activities.

The drones used at the nuclear plants were small, with some about the size of a large pizza box that can fly only a few meters in the air, and another about 2-meters (6-feet) wide that can go higher, one official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Experts said drones are primarily used for reconnaissance missions.

"Drones can be used for collecting data in various ways, whether it be images, videos, air samples, for example, and sound," said Jean-Luc Fornier, a professional drone operator.

"We have no clue regarding who could be behind these operations... (But) whoever is behind this they have not been very careful since they have been spotted," he added.

Authorities insist that France's nuclear facilities are designed to handle seismic and security risks. State-controlled power company EDF — which has had 13 sites flown over by drones — said the overflights have not affected plant operations in any way.

Greenpeace, which has led peaceful incursions into French nuclear facilities in recent years to expose security vulnerabilities, denies any connection to the drone flights. □

## Russia offers support for Ukrainian separatist vote

**PETER LEONARD**  
**NATALIYA VASILYEVA**  
**Associated Press**

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)** — Moscow offered warm support Monday for rebel-organized elections in eastern Ukraine — an endorsement that could only serve to keep the West's sanctions against Russia in place.

Pro-Russian separatist authorities said Sunday's vote, which saw two rebel leaders easily reconfirmed in their roles, gives them a powerful mandate to slip further from Ukrainian rule. Plans for the election had been condemned by the European Union and the United States, which said it violated Ukrainian law and undermined a 2-month-old cease-fire deal that has existed only on paper. "The United States deplores and does not recognize yesterday's so-called separatist elections in eastern Ukraine, nor do we recognize any of the leaders chosen in this illegal vote," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters in Washington on Monday. "If Russia were to recognize the so-called elections, it would only serve to isolate it further."

Russia's Foreign Ministry indicated in a statement that it would refrain from supporting outright independence for the Donbass, as Ukraine's heavily industrial eastern regions are known collectively.

"In view of the elections, it is extremely important to take active steps toward promoting sustained dialogue between central Ukrainian authorities and the representatives of the Donbass," the Russian statement said. A rebuke was swift in coming from Germany, which deems Russia's position on the vote in the rebel-held areas detrimental to the September truce deal signed in the Belarusian capital, Minsk. That accord envisioned local elections being held across the whole of the east and under Kiev's supervision.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said that because the elections weren't carried out in accordance with Ukrainian law they "can have no legal relevance" and will deepen the crisis.

The head of the election body in the main rebel city of Donetsk, Roman Lyagin, said inescapable conclusions needed to be drawn from the polls.

"Kiev has to come to terms with the idea that Donbass is not part of Ukraine," he said. "Whether they will recognize the result of our vote or not is Kiev's problem."

Any hardening of secessionist views portends more unrest in the east, where more than 4,000 people have been killed in six months of fighting between government troops and rebel forces.

U.S. and European sanctions against Russia in response to the Kremlin's support for the insurgency have dented an economy already teetering on the brink of recession. Investors have balked at taking risks in Moscow and capital flight is at full throttle.

Despite Moscow's seeming unwillingness to compromise on Ukraine, resolve had wavered among some EU members over whether keep all the economic sanctions in place. With its support for the separatist vote, however, Moscow has sealed its fate in the short-term. □



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## Cuba seeks over \$8 billion in foreign investment

**MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba asked international companies Monday to invest more than \$8 billion in the island as it attempts to kick-start a centrally planned economy starved for cash and hamstrung by inefficiency.

Foreign Commerce Minister Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz announced a list of 246 potential projects that would cost \$8.7 billion to build, from a pig farm to an auto plant. The menu of possible investments is a key step in a push for foreign capital that includes the relaxation of investment restrictions and the creation of a special trade zone around a new deep-water port west of Havana.

"Cuba is pushing strongly to take advantage of the benefits associated with foreign investment to stimulate development," Malmierca said.

Despite the push, foreigners at Havana's International Fair, the country's main economic promotional event, described Cuba as a place that still makes investors deeply nervous. Many basic supplies are lacking and simple decisions take weeks or months for approval from overlapping government agencies.

The Cuban government remains opaque, refusing to release basic information like current levels of foreign investment. Malmierca told The Associated Press that the figure could be misused by the United States, which maintains an embargo on Cuba that the Caribbean country blames for much of its economic misfortune.

Cuba is "in an economic



The shadow of self-employed Juan Carlos Lazo is cast on the cement next to his motorized bicycle which he uses to sell donuts along the Malecon in Havana, Cuba. Cuba asked international companies Monday to invest more than \$8 billion in the island as it attempts to kick-start a centrally planned economy starved for cash and hamstrung by inefficiency.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

war with the world's primary power," he said. "We don't give out that data." The call for foreign investment is part of a four-year-old reform process meant to energize the economy by introducing private enterprise and foreign capital into a socialist model characterized by low wages, insufficient investment, crumbling infrastructure and persistent shortages.

The country says it needs to drive foreign investment to more than \$2 billion a year to help raise an economic growth rate not expected to exceed 1 percent this year. It's looking to push growth to 5 percent annually, but the reform effort appears to have had few results so far. Cuba has yet to announce any foreign investment projects for the Mariel trade zone nearly a

year after the port opened with \$600 million from Brazil — two-thirds of the project's cost.

Chinese executive George Yan said he asked in May for permission to build a \$1 million plant at Mariel that would employ 100 Cubans to assemble energy-saving LED lights. Despite receiving initial approval three months later, he has not been shown potential sites

for the factory or received other indications the project can proceed.

In China, he said, "this would take 24 hours."

"The Cubans have a certain fear that if they go fast they can't reverse any decision, so they prefer to go more slowly and do all the studies," he said.

Yan nevertheless said he was optimistic Cuba would move faster in the coming year.

"Many people complain about the time in which we do things, but everyone's got their own pace," Malmierca said. "We're going to do this our way and we want to do it well."

The project list itself contained telling details about the lack of basic inputs for potential new businesses in Cuba. Among the enterprises Cuba wants funded is a \$70 million plant producing bottles for drinks including Havana Club rum, a well-regarded joint venture between the Cuban government and French beverage conglomerate Pernod Ricard. In other words, a country looking to launch industries as complex as light-auto production today can't produce something as basic as glass bottles for its rum. □

## Prison officials deny Van der Sloot stabbing claim

**FRANKLIN BRICENO**

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peruvian prison officials denied on Monday a claim that convicted killer Joran van der Sloot was stabbed by other inmates in the remote maximum security prison where he was recently transferred for disciplinary reasons.

A prisons authority official said Van der Sloot has been

isolated from other prisoners in the Challapalca prison in Peru's southern highlands. The official said he has two superficial wounds on his abdomen that were probably self-inflicted.

The prisons official spoke on condition of anonymity, saying she was not authorized to divulge the information publicly ahead of a press statement expect-

ed Tuesday. The Peruvian woman who Van der Sloot married in July told reporters Sunday that he had been stabbed. His attorney, Maximo Altez, made the same claim and said he was too busy to offer details. The prime suspect in the 2005 disappearance of the U.S. teen Natalee Holloway, Van der Sloot is serving a 28-year prison

sentence for the 2010 murder of a Lima woman.

Van der Sloot was transferred to Challapalca from a prison outside Lima. Prison authorities said they had found him with a cellphone, which is against regulations. Van der Sloot's wife, Leidy Figueroa, gave birth to a daughter in September. The two met in a Lima prison. □



# Deaths of babies at Dominican hospital raise alarm

**EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ**

**Associated Press**

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — Rosa

Elba Santana struggles to comprehend what went tragically wrong for her infant twins at the Robert Reid Cabral Children's Hospital, one of the few places for someone with a sick kid and not much money in the Dominican capital.

Rosanna and Isaac died, according to their death certificates, from a bacteriological infection. But the clinical explanation only raises more questions for Santana, who took the month-old twins to the state-run hospital because the girl had stomach pains and the boy seemed to have trouble breathing.

"I took them to be checked, not because it was serious," the 20-year-old mother said in a sparsely furnished home with a dirt floor where she is living with her toddler son, mother and a sister. "Instead of getting better, they got worse."

Her twins were among 11 babies who died at Robert Reid Cabral over three

days in early October, a cluster of deaths that shocked Dominicans and brought what some say is long-overdue attention to one of the country's most important medical institutions. It also raises questions about overall quality of health care for the poor in the Dominican Republic.

Following the deaths, President Danilo Medina appointed a commission to investigate. It found significant shortcomings at the hospital, leading to the firings of the nation's health minister, the hospital director and others, even as officials have defended the overall care at the 300-bed facility.

The commission, led by the attorney general, determined in a preliminary investigation that infections contracted in the hospital were responsible for the deaths of four of the 11 children, including Santana's twins. Four other deaths stemmed from "deficiencies in the quality" of medical care, including a failure that lasted several hours in the system that supplies oxygen to the hospital's

respirators. In only one of the deaths did the patient receive adequate treatment, their report found.

The ousted director, Rosa

that the hospital's mortality rate declined in recent years. Even so, the death rate is three times the national average for public

poor country of 10 million. UNICEF says widespread malnutrition is primarily responsible for the country's infant mortality rate of 27



**In this Oct. 15, 2014, children share beds in the Emergency Room of the Robert Reid Cabral Children's Hospital in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Officials and doctors concede the hospital is understaffed, under-funded and overfilled. Patients are known to be crowded onto the same bed. The hospital director says that only occurs in the emergency room, not after patients have been admitted.**

**(AP Photo/Ezequiel Abiu Lopez)**

Nieves Paulino, who was deputy director for seven years before moving to the top job when Medina took office in 2012, sought to defend her tenure by noting

hospitals and there were at least two other clusters of deaths there since June.

"The children who come to the hospital are very sick. And, of those who died, some of them had been here less than 24 hours," she said.

There could be other factors behind the mortality rate, including the fact the hospital treats children who are poorer and sicker than the overall population. There isn't enough data to determine if the number of deaths is "alarming," said the new director, Jose Miguel Ferreras.

"We can't say three or four deaths per day is a high figure without a deeper analysis," Ferreras said.

Still, officials and doctors concede the hospital is understaffed, underfunded and overfilled. Santana recalls there were four other babies crowded onto the same bed as her twins when she took them there to be checked out. Ferreras, however, said that only occurs in the emergency room, not after patients have been admitted.

The Dominican Republic has pockets of extreme wealth but it still largely is a

per 1,000 births. The average for all of Latin America and the Caribbean is 16 per 1,000, according to the Pan American Health Organization.

Robert Reid Cabral opened in 1956 and is named for a Dominican pediatrician and brother of a former president, but is popularly known as "El Angelita" for its original name honoring Angelita Trujillo, daughter of a former dictator. Because it accepts payments from social security and is willing to treat the very poor at no cost, it draws patients from throughout the country, including many who, like Santana, live in slums on the outskirts of the capital. "They told me this was the place to take your children, where they have the specialists," she said.

Sitting on her tattered couch, Santana, who is single and has no job, tries to make sense of the death certificates, which describe how her son died while doctors tried to perform a blood transfusion to treat sepsis that had overwhelmed his body. Her daughter died under similar circumstances the next day. □



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community also increased by 200% compared to the third quarter of 2012. Construction activities are still ongoing at Gold Coast and it is to be expected that their magnificent growth will be doubled again next year. Future expansion includes the construction of a Gold Coast Clubhouse. This multi-purpose Clubhouse will feature 2 tennis courts and large community pool, a convenience store, business center, restaurant, Spa and state of the art Fitness Center. The Gold Coast Clubhouse is to be completed in 2014. □



engine for direct bookings of the Gold Coast condos, townhouses and spacious villas. Lastly, Gold Coast shares its results of the third quarter of 2013. Compared to the same time last year results show a 200% increase in rental business of their condos, townhouses and villas. In addition the occupancy at the rental homes in this residential





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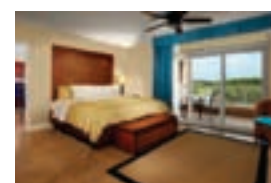
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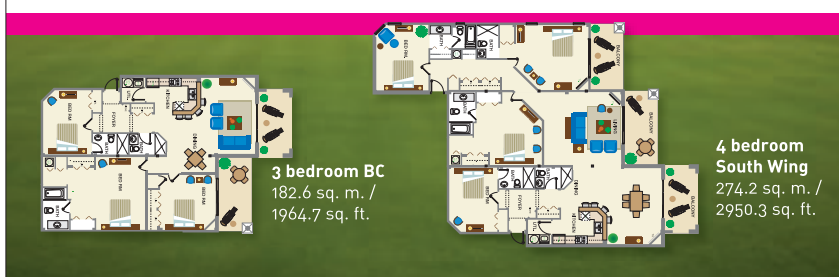
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## The Aloe Vera Plant, a brief history.

Aloe Vera's healing properties were discovered centuries ago and it has been used as an ingredient in medications throughout the world by many different cultures ever since. It is believed that Cleopatra used Aloe to enhance the natural beauty of her skin by bathing in Aloe gel and that Christopher Columbus said: "Four vegetables are indispensable for the well being of a man: Wheat, the grape, the olive and Aloe. The first nourishes him, the second raises his spirit, the third brings him harmony and the fourth cures him."

Aloe Vera, meaning True Plant in Latin, originally comes from Africa and the plant has been endowed with such marvelous properties that over the years it has been given names such as the Burn Plant, Medicine Plant, Wand of Heaven and even Plant of Life.

## "Island of Aloe".

The plant was introduced in Aruba in the mid 1800's, and because of the perfect weather conditions for the plant to grow in Aruba became one of the largest exporters of Aloe Vera products in the world earning the nickname "Island of Aloe". Aloe has proven to be so important to the local economy that the plant is even shown in the code of arms of Aruba. Aloe Vera nowadays tops the list as one of the most powerful moisturizers and hydrating remedies available and Aruban aloe is known to be the best in the world.

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During the tour, the super friendly local staff will guide you through the process of how they grow, hand cut and process the products that are sold worldwide. You will also get a guided tour of the museum that serves as a national depository for ancient aloe tools and equipment as well as a complete library on the history, manufacturing and healing qualities of Aloe.



## Claude Cyr & Burdette Redfirn, from New Brunswick Canada, on Aruba for a friend's wedding:

"It is my first time on the island; we are having a great time! Aruba is beautiful and the water is amazing. I have used the Aruba Aloe products a lot already for small burns and especially sunburns. We are glad we came to take the tour to see the process; I had no idea that it was such a small company and that everything is done manually which is good for the local economy. What surprised me is that Aloe is actually edible and a bodily cleanser, so I have learned quite a bit. The tour guide Randy is excellent! "

## Laura & Dominio Bucciero, from Napels Italy on their honeymoon:

"First time in Aruba, we are here for our honeymoon and staying for a week. The tour is very interesting, even though I don't perfectly understand English. We have

Aloe in Italy but there it's not such good quality as the Aloe here. I have purchased the hand and body lotion because I don't really sunburn but still want very smooth and hydrated skin."

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very sexy with beautiful waitresses that constantly checked if everything was ok with us, thumbs up for the amazing service. Karaoke was very good, funny and entertaining. The highlight of the night for me was the watermelon, never tasted something that great before! I had a lot of fun. I am definitely recommending Sand Bar." □







# In The Pits



## Column: Are there double standards for Keselowski?

This photo provided by NASCAR shows the green flag dropping on Matt Kenseth (20), Jeff Gordon (24) and the rest of the field of drivers starting the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/NASCAR, Matt Sullivan)

JENNA FRYER

**AP Auto Racing Writer**  
**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina**  
**(AP)** — In the closing laps at Martinsville Speedway, Jeff Gordon could see Dale Earnhardt Jr. ahead of him with enough time to formulate a plan on how to handle his teammate if Gordon could catch him. Earnhardt had been eliminated from the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship field one week earlier and was racing only for a trophy.

Gordon, still eligible to win the title, wanted to win last week to grab the automat-



Brad Keselowski, right, is punched during a fight after the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014. The crews of Jeff Gordon and Keselowski fought after the race.

(AP Photo/Matthew Bishop)

ic berth into the final round of NASCAR's playoffs.

So what would have happened?

"I would have moved him for sure. There's no doubt in my mind," Gordon said after finishing second to Earnhardt at Martinsville.

"Everybody who is out there racing has to weigh risk versus reward. For me, to win this race, it's worth taking a lot of risk, even if you upset your teammate. "I think everybody out there that's not in the Chase understands that if that guy can win that race and put himself in Homestead

for the championship, you can pretty much guarantee that you're going to get the bumper or get slammed or something."

Well, Gordon got slammed on Sunday at Texas Motor Speedway and he didn't like it one bit.

He confronted Brad Keselowski on pit road following the race, and an exchange of words escalated quickly — with an assist from Kevin Harvick — into a full-blown melee between the crews.

**NASCAR**

Continued on page 20

# Knicks, Learning As They Go, Still Turn To Anthony



# Jaguars chalk latest loss up to special teams

**MARK LONG**

AP Sports Writer

The Jacksonville Jaguars found a new way to lose Sunday against Cincinnati. It had nothing to do with rookie quarterback Blake Bortles' mistakes or any defensive lapses.

Special teams doomed the Jaguars (1-8) in this one. Jacksonville's not-so-special units made four glaring errors that contributed significantly in a 33-23 loss.

"The special teams units, we did not perform very well," Jaguars coach Gus Bradley said. "That's not in our nature."

Aside from three blocked field goals, Jacksonville's punt and kick teams have been mostly solid all season.

They were a debacle Sunday, essentially contributing to 19 points in a 10-point loss.

Bryan Anger's first punt of

the second quarter got tipped, traveled 27 yards and gave Cincinnati its best field position of the game. The Bengals turned it into a field goal.

Anger's next punt was

blocked out of the end zone for a safety, putting Cincy ahead 12-3 in the closing minutes of the first half.

Things continued to unravel after the break. Early in

the fourth quarter, Adam Jones returned a punt 31 yards to the Jacksonville 23. The Bengals scored a touchdown two plays later for a 26-10 lead.

Jacksonville scored twice to make it 26-23 with 8:13 remaining, but Josh Scobee's ensuing kickoff squirted out of bounds near the goal line and gave Cincinnati the ball at the 40-yard line. Rookie Jeremy Hill scored on the next play, a 60-yard run that left the Jaguars shaking their heads and looking for answers.

"Obviously they scored on the next play so it looks bad," Scobee said. "It was bad timing, obviously, and I wish I could have it back, but just got to deal with it." Having started 10 rookies and nine second-year players through nine games this season, Jacksonville doesn't have a lot of margin for error. They rank near the bottom of the league

on both sides of the ball.

The Jags have lost games because of turnovers, sacks, dropped passes, missed tackles and blown assignments. Bradley won't use his team's inexperience as an excuse, but it's reality when he's trying to get so many youngsters to compete with veteran-laden teams like the Bengals. Regardless, the Jaguars expect better.

"It's definitely frustrating because it's things that we can control," long-snapper Carson Tinker said.

Jacksonville had plenty of other issues in losing for the 34th time in its last 41 games. Bortles threw his league-leading 13th interception in the closing minutes. The defense allowed 423 yards, including 191 on the ground. But the main culprit, for a change, was special teams. And with one punt blocked and another one tipped. □



Cincinnati Bengals free safety Taylor Mays celebrates a safety after he blocked a punt during the first half of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Cincinnati, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/AJ Mast)

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## More than 200 opt out of new NFL injury deal

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — More than 200 former players or their families have opted out of the proposed settlement of National Football League concussion claims, fewer than 1 percent of the retirees covered by the deal, according to court documents filed Monday. Retired players who opted out of the proposed class-action settlement have the option of suing the NFL individually, but they presumably would have to show their brain injuries resulted from concussions suffered while they were playing for the league.

The NFL has agreed to pay at least \$765 million, and more if needed, to address claims the NFL hid known concussion risks for years. Current players are not included in the litigation.

A filing by the claims administrator said that a total of 220 individuals — 196 former players, 22 relatives of NFL retirees and two who went unclassified — opted out by last month's deadline. Fourteen sought to opt out but submitted their requests too late.

Settlement notices were sent to 25,040 players and 8,924 relatives of deceased players, the filing said.

"With over 99 percent participation, it is clear the retired player community resoundingly supports this settlement," lead plaintiffs' attorneys Christopher Seeger and Sol Weiss said in a statement. "Over the last several months, we have heard from countless retired players who are in dire need of these benefits, as well as those who take comfort in the long-term protections the settlement provides." □

## Showdown of AFC rivals, passers ends in rout

PETER MAY

© 2014 New York Times

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The marquee games on New England's schedule are getting to be like pretty much every other game at Gillette Stadium: unending torment for whichever unfortunate team happens to be playing the Patriots.

The Patriots' game against the Denver Broncos on Sunday featured two of the NFL's top quarterbacks, two of the top three offenses and the teams with the two best records in the AFC, each entering with a four-game winning streak. It was your basic clash of the titans. It also was no contest.

New England made it five in a row with a surprisingly easy 43-21 victory.

In those five wins — all since a 41-14 loss to Kansas City — the Patriots (7-2) have averaged 40.2 points a game. Denver, which beat San Diego in its last game, on Oct. 23, fell to 6-2.

Denver center Manny Ramirez, considering the beating, said, "I have no explanation." He spoke for all the Broncos, who had no answer for the Patriots' offense, defense or special teams. Wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders called the loss "definitely embarrassing."

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who improved to 9-3 in regular-season meetings against Peyton Manning, threw touchdown passes to four receivers and passed the Broncos great John Elway to move into fifth place in career passing yards. Julian Edelman made one of the touchdown receptions and broke the game open with an 84-yard punt return. "Everybody plays a role in the offense," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said.

"Multiple guys make multiple plays to score points. That's the idea. It's not stats this, stats that. We're not playing fantasy football here."

Manning extended his run of games with a touchdown pass to 47, tying with Johnny Unitas for the third-longest streak in NFL history.



Denver Broncos running back Ronnie Hillman (23) scores a touchdown with New England Patriots cornerback Brandon Browner, rear, in pursuit in the second half of an NFL football game on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, in Foxborough, Mass.

But that was Denver's only real highlight as Gillette Stadium once again proved to be a charnel house for visitors. The victory was the Patriots' 14th straight at Gillette, and New England has won 34 straight home games against AFC opponents, dating to Nov. 30, 2008. Brady has not lost to an AFC team at Gillette in the regular season since Nov. 12, 2006.

Asked if he thought Gillette was a tough place to play, Denver coach John Fox said, "They make it tough." For the second straight year, the ever-quirky New England weather threatened to overshadow one of the most anticipated games of the season.

On Nov. 24, 2013, in the coldest regular-season game in the history of the stadium, the Patriots rallied from a 24-0 deficit to defeat the Broncos in overtime.

On Sunday morning, a nor'easter brought rain, driving snow and high winds. But by the 4:25 p.m. kickoff, the sun was out, the

across the field, going the 84 yards without a Bronco touching him.

"Mini-tron, what he did on the punt return, was incredible," Brady said, using Edelman's nickname.

Edelman said: "I bolted the way we're supposed to go, and I just saw a bunch of guys blocking their tails

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

snow had been plowed, and the wind was blowing at a comparatively calm 20 mph.

And this time, the Patriots did not need any come-from-behind theatrics, spotting Denver a 7-3 lead before scoring 24 straight points.

Edelman, one of the smallest players on the field, made the biggest play of the game, returning a Britton Colquitt punt for a touchdown midway through the second quarter.

The score was the fourth of Edelman's career on a punt return. Edelman, who also caught a 5-yard touchdown pass, veered to his right and then cut back

off, and we got in the end zone. It was a great team play."

The return gave New England a 20-7 lead in a game the Patriots seemingly had to win to have any hope of hosting the AFC championship game.

(At this point, a playoff berth appears a given.)

The Patriots added to their NFL-best turnover ratio with two interceptions, including Manning's first since Oct. 5, and both interceptions led to New England touchdowns.

"I've got to play better," Manning said. "That's pretty plain and simple. When the quarterback stinks, usually you're not going to win too many games." □



## NASCAR

Continued on page 20

Both champions were left bloodied — Gordon's lip and Keselowski spitting blood after taking a shot to the cheek — even though neither driver appeared to throw a punch or get close enough to each other to actually fight.

But for the second time in four races, Keselowski was attacked in a post-race fracas because his aggressive driving upset someone. It happened at Charlotte last month when Denny Hamlin had to be restrained from going after him, then Matt Kenseth jumped him from behind before he was quickly pulled away.

This time, Gordon was primed for a smack-down. He called his shot on his team radio when he said he was going to beat up Keselowski, who on a restart during an overtime two-lap sprint to the finish tried to wedge his car in between Gordon and teammate

Jimmie Johnson to grab the lead.

There were two laps left at the time and Keselowski, in a hole in the Chase stand-

the line should have done. Gordon himself said just seven days earlier everyone should expect Chase drivers to be aggressive.

finishing 29th and is fourth in the eight-driver Chase field. It's understandable that Gordon was angry. But it's unfair to hold Keselowski to

the same reward moment where Keselowski let it all hang out.

"Brad Keselowski is a champion who competes to win in every race, which is what I expect of him," team owner Roger Penske said in a statement Monday. "While the actions by others following the race in Texas were unfortunate, Brad has my 100 percent support as we now move on to Phoenix for the next stage of the NASCAR championship."

The late Formula One champion Ayrton Senna said repeatedly throughout his career that drivers always compete to win. "If you no longer go for a gap that exists, you are no longer a racing driver because we are competing, we are competing to win," he said in 1990.

Senna and so many other greats raced under those standards. Gordon himself said just a week ago that aggression is warranted at this stage of the season. Why is not OK for Keselowski to do the same? □



Jeff Gordon (24) and Brad Keselowski (2) race during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/Ralph Lauer)

ings, needed that win to grab one of the four spots in the Nov. 16 championship finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway. He saw a gap and went for it, just as any driver with his season on

The problem was that Keselowski and Gordon made contact, causing Gordon to spin after his tire went flat. Racing for a win and a spot at Homestead moments earlier, he wound up

a different standard, even if his body of work has drawn the ire of the majority of the garage.

Keselowski had as much on the line as Gordon, and it was a go-for-broke, risk ver-

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## Knicks, learning as they go, still turn to Anthony in the end

SCOTT CACCIOLA

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NEW YORK - So much of what the New York Knicks are doing this season feels so very different. The offensive sets. The coaching. The absence of distractions, at least for now.

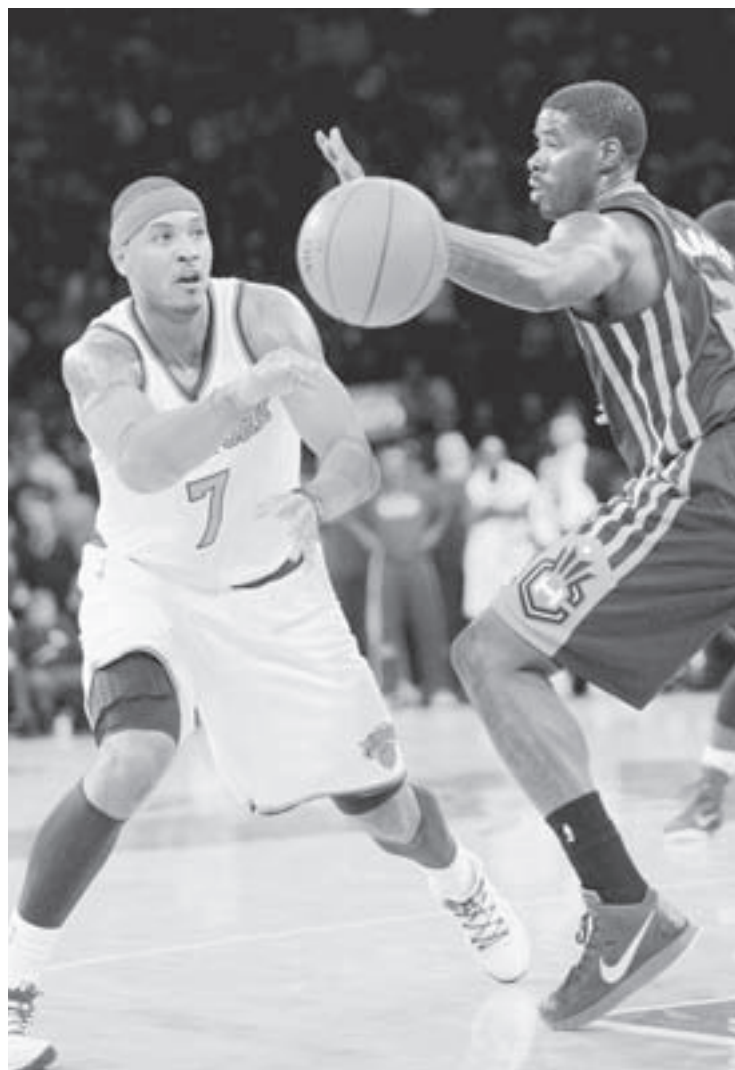
But there are also moments when their approach looks extraordinarily familiar, and one such sequence played out in the waning moments of their game against the Charlotte Hornets on Sunday night. The ball, as it often has during his topsy-turvy tenure in New York, found Carmelo Anthony, and he made the most of his opportunities. After he connected on a go-ahead jumper, Anthony secured a defensive rebound in the final seconds and added a foul shot to close out the Knicks' 96-93 victory at Madison Square Garden.

The Knicks fully anticipated having growing pains in the first few days (or months) of the season. And after being blown out by the Chicago Bulls in their season opener on Wednesday, coach Derek Fisher went so far as to predict that wins would be hard to come by, especially as the team comes to grips with the triangle offense.

But after shocking the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday - on the road, no less - the Knicks are suddenly in the business of defying expectations.

"The ball," Fisher said, "is moving."

Anthony, who became the 40th player in NBA history to surpass 20,000 points, finished with 28 points while shooting 12 of 22 from the field. He played 35 minutes, a reasonable total after he led the league in minutes last season. Coincidence or not, he looked



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, left, passes the ball as he is guarded by Charlotte Hornets' Marvin Williams during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Knicks won 96-93.

(AP Photo/Bill Kostroun)

fresh down the stretch.

"In the past, I would say that we probably would've lost a couple of these close games," Anthony said. "But it just shows how far we've come and where we have to go."

The game was a tightrope walk. After Gary Neal and Kemba Walker had back-to-back baskets to give the Hornets a 93-90 lead, Iman Shumpert answered with a 3-pointer. Anthony followed that with a jump shot from the elbow with 1 minutes 23 seconds left.

The Knicks (2-1) intensified their defense, forcing two straight turnovers by the Hornets (1-2), but they could not capitalize at the other end. After Shumpert misfired from the perimeter, the Hornets set up a final play with 16.6 seconds left. But when Walker was errant on a runner, Anthony grabbed the rebound - and sealed the win.

"I think it's important to allow for a guy like Carmelo, who's a great closer and finisher of games, to have the energy level to do so," Fisher said.

Amar'e Stoudemire had

17 points and 10 rebounds, and Iman Shumpert added 15 points. The Knicks shot 50 percent from the field, limited the Hornets' Kemba Walker to 16 points and won despite going 10 of 17 from the free-throw line. There is, of course, room for improvement.

Shane Larkin, who started his third straight game at point guard as Jose Calderon recovers from a strained calf, watched the fourth quarter from the bench. Fisher opted for experience by playing Pablo Prigioni, whom Fisher called a "machine" at age 37. Larkin said he understood. "You want to close the game with a veteran, that's fine with me," said Larkin, who had another solid game, with 9 points and five assists in 27 minutes.

Larkin also played a bit part in history. He said he was aware before the game that Anthony was nearing 20,000 points for his career. Larkin found him early in the first quarter for an open 3-pointer, which Anthony buried to eclipse the mark.

□

## Sandoval among 12 receiving qualifying offers

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — San Francisco Giants World Series star Pablo Sandoval was among 12 free agents given \$15.3 million qualifying offers Monday by their former teams.

Detroit made the offers to pitcher Max Scherzer and first baseman-designated hitter Victor Martinez, and Pittsburgh to left-hander Francisco Liriano and catcher Russell Martin.

Also receiving offers were shortstop Hanley Ramirez (Los Angeles Dodgers), outfielder Nelson Cruz (Balti-

more), right-hander James Shields (Kansas City), closer David Robertson (New York Yankees), outfielder Melky Cabrera (Toronto), pitcher Ervin Santana (Atlanta) and outfielder Michael Cuddyer (Colorado).

An offer could be made only to a free agent who was with the team for the entire season, and players have until Nov. 10 to accept. The price was determined by the average of the top 125 major league contracts this year by average annual value.

If a player rejects a qualifying offer and signs a major

league contract with another club before the June amateur draft, his former team would receive a draft pick as compensation at the end of the first round.

The club signing that player loses its first-round pick in the amateur draft, unless that pick is among the top 10, in which case the club signing that player loses its next-highest pick.

None of the 22 qualifying offers made after the past two seasons was accepted.

The approximately 135 free agents can start negotiating money with all teams

starting Tuesday.

Three players who potentially could have become free agents stayed with their teams. Third baseman Aramis Ramirez exercised his half of a \$14 million mutual option with Milwaukee; left-hander Tsuyoshi Wada agreed to a \$4 million, one-year contract with the Chicago Cubs; and Tampa Bay exercised a \$2.5 million option on right-hander Joel Peralta.

Kansas City exercised a \$7 million option on reliever Wade Davis, who would have been eligible for salary arbitration. □



# Are your heart symptoms all in your head?

© 2014 HealthDay

**(HealthDay News)** - Nearly three-quarters of people whose hearts are found to be healthy after being checked for coronary artery disease continue to have persistent symptoms such as chest pain, a new study finds. Did the doctors miss something? Probably not. Examinations for heart disease can worsen a patient's anxiety and trigger these symptoms, according to the report published

published Nov. 3 in the on-line journal Open Heart. The researchers noted that about one out of five people with chest pain has no obvious sign of coronary artery disease and their symptoms are unlikely to have a physical cause. "But it is not always clear who these patients are, and they often undergo extensive and expensive tests to find out that nothing is wrong with their hearts," the researchers said in a

journal news release. This German study included 253 people who complained of chest pain, shortness of breath and heart palpitations but were found to be free of coronary artery disease after undergoing coronary angiography, an invasive procedure that takes X-ray pictures of the heart. Before angiography, about one in 10 patients reported severe symptoms and one in four had moderate

symptoms. After angiography, seven in 10 patients continued to have symptoms for up to 18 months. Compared to people in the general population, the study patients had higher overall anxiety levels and higher levels of heart-focused anxiety, and lower quality of life scores. Also, the patients were 68 percent more likely to have hypochondria and 120 percent more likely to have somatization disorder, which

are physical symptoms triggered by state of mind. In cases where no signs of coronary artery disease are found in people with symptoms, doctors should have patients complete mental health questionnaires, the researchers said. This could help patients avoid further expensive and potentially invasive tests and direct them to the mental health help they require, they noted.

## Emotion is not very often the best medicine

JANE E. BRODY

© 2014 New York Times

Breast cancer, tick bites, gluten, GMOs, artificial sweeteners, shark attacks - and now Ebola.

The news is replete with seemingly endless tales of health threats. Who could blame you for deciding to remain indoors, alone in bed, indefinitely?

That would hardly be a life worth living. But many people do respond to health risks, however small, in ways that take joy out of their lives, all the while falsely believing that they are protecting themselves.

I once wrote that there are as many cancer-causing mutagens in two raw mushrooms as in a serving of peanut butter. It was supposed to be reassuring, but a reader lamented, "Now I can't eat mushrooms!"

What health risks do you worry about, and how do those concerns affect your behavior? Do you become anxious after learning of a new or increasing threat,

no matter how remote? Or do you ignore the risk of developing a common and possibly life-threatening ail-

ment like heart disease or the flu, resisting protective measures and persisting in behaviors even if they in-

crease your risk? In an ideal world, people would base medical decisions on an unbiased

evaluation of available evidence. But people are often irrational, and many, perhaps most, of their actions are driven more by emotion than facts.

Fear-mongering, intentional or otherwise, is epidemic now that every health threat - real, potential or imagined - can instantly go viral on the Internet. Widely disseminated graphic images of people dying of Ebola, for instance, have greatly enhanced the public's fear. But even without instant communication, panic can ensue.

"A child's risk of getting cancer from asbestos insulation in a school building is about one third the chance of being struck by lightning," Dr. Lisa Rosenbaum wrote last month in The New England Journal of Medicine. "Nevertheless, in 1993, frightened New York City parents agitated for asbestos removal from schools."



People ideally would base medical decisions on an unbiased evaluation of evidence. But people are often irrational and don't rely on facts.

(Scott Bakal/The New York Times)

Continued on page 27

## Many Americans may get hospice care too late

© 2014 HealthDay

**(HealthDay News)** - Of the more than 1.5 million patients who received hospice care in the United States in 2013, one-third died within one week of getting it, a new report shows.

"While many dying Americans are opting for hospice care at the end of their lives, far too many receive care for a week or less. We need to reach patients earlier in

the course of their illness to ensure they receive the full benefits that hospice and palliative care can offer," J. Donald Schumacher, president and CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, said in a news release from the organization.

In the new report, the organization examined the growth, delivery and quality of hospice care in the United States. The findings

were presented in Nashville recently at a meeting of hospice and palliative care professionals.

The investigators found that 34.5 percent of hospice patients received care for seven days or less, while half of hospice patients received care for less than 18 days. Of all hospice care, 66 percent was provided where patients lived, including private homes, residential facilities or nursing homes.

The report authors noted that 91 percent of hospice care in 2013 was covered by the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

Meanwhile, the report revealed that most hospice patients had conditions other than cancer. "A common misconception is that hospices care predominantly for people with cancer," said Schumacher. The researchers found that 63 percent of the people

who received hospice care were not cancer patients and had other illnesses, such as dementia, heart disease, lung disease, stroke or kidney disease.

Research presented at meetings is considered preliminary until it is published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

More information: The U.S. National Library of Medicine has more about hospice care.



In Monster's testing with its own job openings, he said, people who received the job ads on Twitter clicked on them as much as 8 percent of the time - a much higher response rate than for the typical social ad. ☐



## US stock indexes hold near records

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The stock market held close to record levels on Monday as a report showed that manufacturing remains on sound footing in the U.S. even as other parts of the global economy struggle. Falling oil prices weighed on energy stocks. The U.S. manufacturing sector rebounded last month, matching a three-year high, according to The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers. The report was preceded by downbeat manufacturing readings from China and Europe, feeding concern that growth in these regions could slide.

announcing it would increase its bond and asset purchases in an effort to stave off deflation.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.24 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,017.81. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 24.28 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,366.24. The Nasdaq composite gained 8.17 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,638.91.

Falling energy stocks also weighed on the stock market on Monday, as the price of U.S. benchmark oil fell to its lowest level in more than two years. Oil slumped following reports that Saudi Arabia is cutting the price it sells oil to the U.S. as it tries to maintain its market share, Bloomberg

groups that make up the S&P 500 index, and the only one to be down for the year.

Deal news helped raise the stocks of some individual companies.

Sapient surged after French advertising group Publicis said it would buy the Boston-based marketing, communications and consulting firm for \$3.7 billion in cash. Sapient soared \$7.28, or 42 percent, to \$24.60.

Covance jumped after LabCorp said it would pay about \$6.1 billion in cash and stock to buy the company in a tie-up that aims to improve clinical trial research for pharmaceuticals. Covance shareholders will receive \$75.76 in cash and a portion of Lab-



**Centrum multivitamins on the packaging line at the Pfizer plant in Montreal. Health care companies are leading the market's rebound from a sharp sell-off two weeks ago, helping push the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index back to record levels.**

(AP Photo/Graham Hughes)

## Healthy Rebound: Stock market's recovery is led by its drugmakers

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — For stocks, it's just what the doctor ordered.

Health care companies are leading the market's rebound from a sharp sell-off two weeks ago, helping push the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index back to record levels.

The industry, which is made up of a range of companies, from global drugmakers like Pfizer to insurers like UnitedHealth, has risen 11.2 percent since October 15, when the stock market's recent slump hit bottom. That is a bigger rise than the 8.4 percent gain for the broader market.

The sector's surge has been driven by its strong third-quarter earnings.

About two-thirds of companies in the S&P 500 have now turned in results, and the health care industry is on track to have the best earnings growth, according to data from Estimize, a company that gathers forecasts from a range of financial professionals.

Average earnings growth for the sector is forecast to come in at 14 percent for the period, higher than growth of 11.7 percent for all companies in the index. Sales are also booming, with sector revenue expected to rise 12 percent for the quarter, above the

4.5 percent growth overall.

Celgene has been one of the best-performing health care stocks in the S&P 500 since the market slump ended Oct. 15. Shares of the biotechnology company have surged 24 percent since the bottom, helped by a strong earnings report last month that showed a double-digit increase in sales. The company is also confident about its drugs in development.

Health care stocks, which also include medical device makers and hospital owners, have been an investor favorite for some time. The sector is up 21 percent in 2014, and is on track to outperform the broader market for the fourth straight year.

What's driving the streak? Aging populations in the developed world mean more money is being spent on medicines and treatments.

Health care spending is forecast to grow at an average of 5.7 percent in the 10 years from 2013 to 2023, 1.1 percentage points faster than the overall growth rate for the economy, according to estimates from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The U.S. now spends close to 20 percent of its gross domestic product on health care, compared with 14 percent twenty years ago, according to World Bank figures.



**Trader Kevin Lodewick works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market held close to record levels on Monday as a report showed that manufacturing remains on sound footing in the U.S. even as other parts of the global economy struggle.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The sluggishness overseas "put a little damper on the U.S. data," said Brad Sorensen, Director of Market and Sector Analysis at the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "Really where the concern lies, at this point, is overseas."

Stocks are trading near record levels after strong company earnings helped the stock market recover from an early October slump. The market closed at an all-time high on Friday after the Bank of Japan surprised investors by

reported.

Benchmark U.S. oil dropped \$1.76 to close at \$78.78 a barrel. Brent crude, the international benchmark, slipped \$1.08 to \$84.78.

Oil has fallen sharply in recent weeks as global supplies rise while demand for fuel trails earlier expectations.

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 index dropped 1.8 percent Monday.

The sector is now down 3.3 percent for the year. The sector is the worst performer among the 10 industry

Corp stock for each share they own. Covance's stock climbed \$20.67, or 25.9 percent, to \$100.57.

As more than 70 percent of companies in the S&P 500 index have now reported their third-quarter earnings, investors will start turning their attention to economic reports, said David Lebovitz, Global Market Strategist for J.P. Morgan Funds. They'll be looking to see whether the U.S. can continue to expand, while other regions in the world struggle for growth.



## HSBC hurt by \$1.69 billion in legal and other costs

CHAD BRAY

© 2014 New York Times

**LONDON** - The British bank HSBC said on Monday that its third-quarter profit rose 7 percent, but its results, like those of many of its European investment banking rivals, were dragged down by \$1.69 billion in legal and restructuring costs.

HSBC, which is based in London but generates

much of its profit from Asia, said it set aside \$378 million for a potential settlement with British regulators in an industrywide investigation into the currency markets and \$550 million for a settlement it had reached in September with the Federal Housing Finance Agency in the United States over mortgage-backed securities sold to Fannie Mae

and Freddie Mac.

The bank also set aside \$701 million to cover potential consumer claims in Britain, including \$589 million involving improper sales of payment protection insurance, a product that has cost British lenders billions in customer payouts.

Deutsche Bank, Barclays, the Royal Bank of Scotland

and UBS have all taken significant charges in the quarter to cover potential legal costs associated with various regulatory investigations.

HSBC also said its private bank had been summoned to appear before French magistrates for the possible start of a criminal inquiry into whether the bank helped individuals in

France avoid paying taxes.

"Although the outcome of the hearing, and any such investigation, is at this time uncertain, as matters progress, it is possible that any fines, penalties or other terms imposed could be significant," HSBC said in a news release, regarding the potential French inquiry. □

## Ryanair raises outlook, soars to new record high

S. POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

**DUBLIN (AP)** — Ryanair sharply raised its profit outlook on the back of surprisingly strong first-half profits, sending shares in Europe's biggest budget airline to a record high.

The airline said Monday that its net profit for the peak April-September period rose 32 percent to 795 million euros (\$994 million), about 100 million euros better than market expectations.

Chief Executive Michael O'Leary said Ryanair would aggressively expand services during the traditionally loss-making, low-demand winter months to attract an extra 2 million passengers, taking the annual total to 89 million, nearly 8 million better than the year before.

And he raised Ryanair's forecast net profit for the full fiscal year ending March to a range of 750 million to 770 million euros (\$938 million to \$963 million). The airline previously boosted its profits outlook

to 650 million euros only six weeks ago.

At one point Ryanair shares

change, they were trading at 8.19 euros, up 7.7 percent on the day.

duced new products and service improvements designed to remove many of

It's now much less common to see angry customers bickering with staff at check-in desks. Passengers now receive seat assignments for free, can carry two small bags on board without rigorous assessment for weight-violation fees, and can buy pricier business-class tickets that offer a free checked bag, fast-track security clearance and free rescheduling of flights. Its Web site navigation has dramatically improved, and Ryanair has resumed cooperation with travel agents after a decade-long boycott.

On the downside, the airline still features some of the industry's most cramped seating and no baggage transfers between connecting flights.

"By keeping fares low and being nicer to our customers, more and more are flying with Ryanair," said O'Leary, who has softened his previously braggadocio, confrontational persona. "It's a newfound experience, I must admit, for me. □



**Passengers as they exit a Ryanair flight at Dublin Airport. Ryanair has beaten experts' forecasts and raised its profit outlook again, sending shares in Europe's biggest budget airline to a record high. The airline said Monday Nov. 3, 2014, that its net profit for the April-September period rose 32 percent to 795 million euros (\$994 million).** (AP Photo/Shawn Pogatchnik)

had surged 10 percent to a record 8.36 euros. By the close on the Irish Stock Ex-

Ryanair's equity has enjoyed a steady ascent this year as the airline intro-

the inflexible, irritating and punitive elements of its previous no-frills model.

## Pace of US factory activity picks up in October

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. factories were busier in October, a sign that manufacturing is on sound footing despite growing concerns about the global economy.

Orders, productivity and hiring all grew faster than they did in September, according to a private survey. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing man-

agers, reported Monday that its manufacturing index rebounded to 59 last month from 56.6 in September. Any reading above 50 signals expansion.

The result matches a three-year high hit in August and reverses a September drop. "Today's report suggests that the manufacturing sector is expanding and will likely continue at a healthy pace in the coming quarter," Bricklin Dwyer, an economist at BNP Paribas,

wrote in a research note. Sixteen of 18 manufacturing industries grew last month, and new orders accelerated. Only petroleum and coal reported a decrease in activity. Manufacturing exports grew last month but at a slower pace than they did in September.

The "weakening in overseas demand was more than offset by a strengthening in demand at home," said Paul Dales, senior U.S.

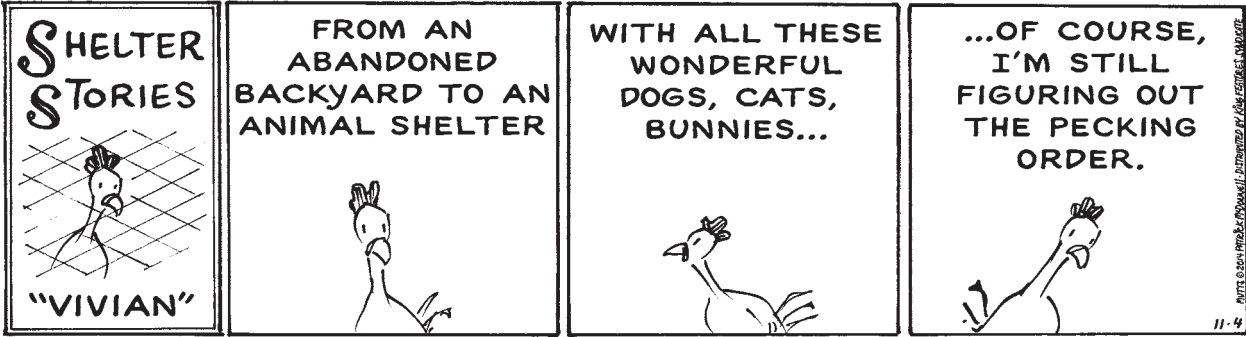
economist with Capital Economics.

Indeed, the U.S. economy is showing promising strength. The Commerce Department reported last week that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.5 percent from July through September. The third-quarter growth was driven by gains in business investment, exports and increased military spending. Employers are adding nearly 227,000 jobs

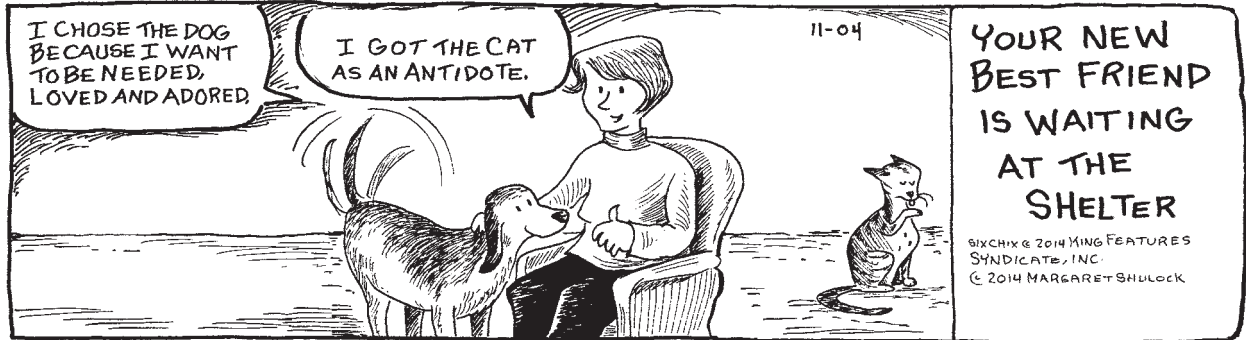
a month this year — on pace to make 2014 the best year for job creation since 1999. The unemployment rate has tumbled to a six-year low 5.9 percent in September from 7.2 percent a year earlier. In a sign of increased confidence in the economy, the Federal Reserve this month ended a bond-buying program intended to push long-term interest rates lower and encourage more spending and borrowing. □



## Mutts



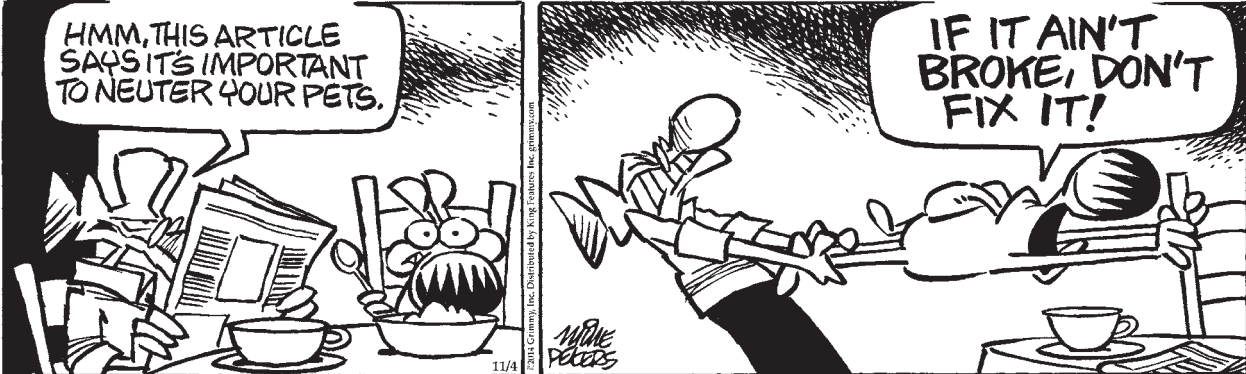
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



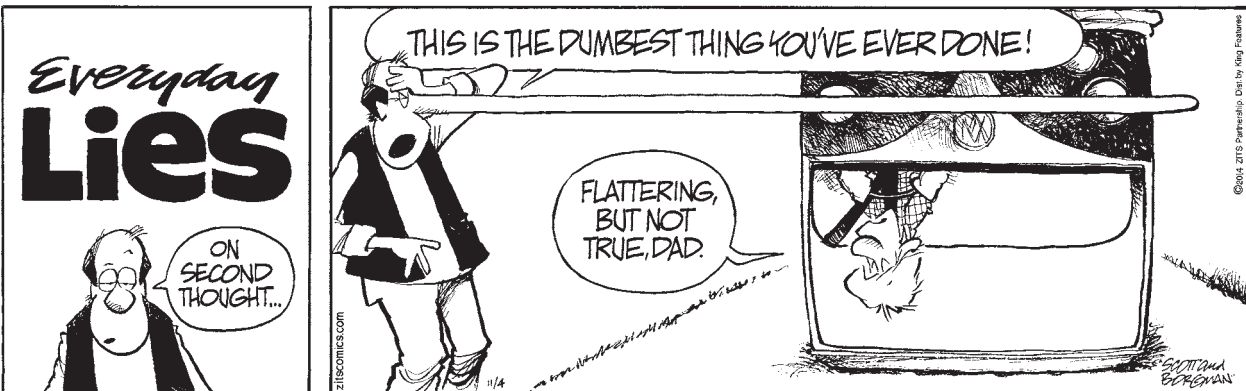
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

5	6			1			7	2
		2				4		
	1			8			3	
			2	8				
3		9		4		5		8
			6	5				
	4			6			5	
		3				8		
8	5			7			1	3

Difficulty Level ★★

11/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

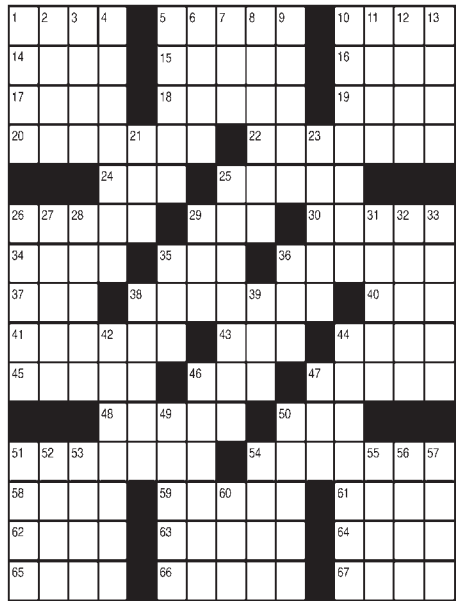
4	5	3	6	2	9	8	1	7
8	2	7	1	3	4	5	9	6
9	1	6	8	5	7	4	2	3
6	3	4	7	9	5	2	8	1
5	7	1	3	8	2	9	6	4
2	9	8	4	6	1	3	7	5
7	6	5	2	4	8	1	3	9
3	4	2	9	1	6	7	5	8
1	8	9	5	7	3	6	4	2

### ACROSS

- Highest point
- Task
- Abnormal sac
- Cut of pork
- Can wrapper
- Sacred
- Treaty
- Excuse
- Element whose symbol is Fe
- Rod or Martha
- Sports player
- Type; variety
- Take without permission
- Loony
- Actress West
- Instruct
- Vex
- \_\_ person; apiece
- Interfere
- \_\_ up; misbehave
- Used crayons
- Gent
- \_\_ up; united for a project
- Religious sister
- Digital video \_\_; DVD
- Goofed
- "The Wizard of Oz" production co.
- Partial refund to the buyer
- Upper class
- Placed in the fridge
- Days of \_\_; long ago
- Job opening
- Actress Daly
- Brewed drink
- Despised
- Malaysian wraparounds
- Furious
- More pleasant
- Cathedral table
- Torné or Tillis
- Fess up
- Come into conflict
- Therefore
- Pea casing
- Beard wearers

### DOWN

- Mont Blanc's range
- Cold weather garment



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/4/14

### Monday's Puzzle Solved

MAR	ASHES	TECH
AGOR	PHONE	HALO
DESI	PANDA	WRAP
SENSELESS	ALMS	
GOAL	CAR	
ARTHUR	PHANTOMS	
MORAL	SOAPY	POI
ADAM	PEEVE	MESS
SEW	SLATE	GENES
SOLDIERS	DRESSY	
ANT	COAT	
SARI	HIT	ORMISS
OXEN	ORALS	NOAH
MEAT	ROUTE	GAGA
ESPY	ANTS	KEY

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11/4/14

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 38 Fragrant wood            | 50 Curtsied        |
| 39 Bacardi product          | 51 Resound         |
| 42 Souvenir                 | 52 Primary         |
| 44 Explanatory chart        | 53 Breathe heavily |
| 46 Came together            | 54 Wander, amble   |
| 47 Plato's "T"              | 55 Israeli dance   |
| 49 Cuddly-looking marsupial | 56 Shade trees     |
|                             | 57 Take a breather |
|                             | 60 Boy             |



## Emotion

Continued from page 22

Although many experts endorsed containment, not removal, as a saner and safer solution, fear prevailed. Billions of dollars were spent on asbestos removal that should have been spent on education. And removal probably increased - not decreased - children's exposure to airborne asbestos.

"Many medical decisions involve considerable uncertainty and complex trade-offs," wrote Rosenbaum, a national correspondent for the journal. And while it is widely believed that better educating and informing prospective patients will keep them from acting irrationally, she cited studies that clearly show otherwise. Sometimes, in fact, more information can heighten people's concerns and prompt them to act in ways unsupported by evidence.

For example, one study used solid data and graphic images to reassure parents that vaccinating children against measles can be lifesaving and is not linked to autism. The effort "not only failed to increase vaccination intent but also cemented some parents' conviction that there is a link between vaccines and autism," Rosenbaum wrote.

"People did not respond as expected," Rosenbaum said in an interview. "Many got even more freaked out."

Research by Dan Kahan, who heads the Cultural Cognition Project at Yale University, indicates that people pick and choose

evidence that reinforces their sense of who they are and the groups they belong to. That partly explains the persistent belief among some parents in a link between vaccines and autism or in the risks of genetically modified foods.

"We don't process negative events, only positive ones. Anyone who doesn't get Ebola falls beneath the radar," Rosenbaum said. "No one wants to hear, 'Calm down.'"

As shown with Ebola, people are more fearful of things they can't control, however remote the risk may be.

In her book "Communicating Health Risks to the Public: A Global Perspective," Dawn Hillier wrote of genetically modified foods: "The public views GM foods as riskier to health than natural carcinogens, because they believe they have no control over their exposure to the GM foods they consume."

"I think one of the biggest problems in the face of fear is how unforgiving we are," Rosenbaum said. "When we're scared, we have this zero-tolerance policy. How many times has the CDC had to deal with an Ebola scare in the U.S.? Never. So it's not going to go perfectly."

"We have to forgive little bumps along the way. We can't ask people not to be scared, but we can ask them to forgive."

In another journal article that preceded the Ebola outbreak, she wrote, "The

big, the dramatic and the memorable occupy far more of our worry budget than the things that kill with far greater frequency: strokes, diabetes, heart disease."

In the interview, she said, "Even though you're far more likely to die of cardiovascular disease, you're inclined to fear Ebola more." Current efforts to have patients participate in medical decisions must "go way beyond conveying information," she added. "People interpret information according to their preconceived notions." Their sense of risk is often determined less by facts than by their feelings and emotions, she said.

Emotions also strongly influence people's desire to be screened for various cancers.

As Dr. H. Gilbert Welch of the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice pointed out last year in JAMA Internal Medicine, patients have been taught to think there are no harms in cancer screening: "It's always good to know. It is just about gathering information. Of course you want it. It is a brain-dead decision."

But all screening tests have benefits and risks that should be considered before deciding to undergo them. The most serious risks are overdiagnosis of a condition that turns out not to exist and overtreatment for conditions that would never have compromised the patient's survival.

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## Virgin spaceship's descent system deployed early

**BRIAN MELLEY**

**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — An

experimental rocket ship broke apart in flight over California's Mojave Desert after a device to slow the space plane's descent deployed too soon, federal investigators said. The cause of Friday's crash of Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo has not been determined, but investigators found the "feathering" system — which rotates the twin tail "feathers" to create drag — was activated before the craft reached the appropriate speed, National Transportation Safety Board Acting Chairman Christopher Hart said. The system requires a two-step process to deploy. The co-pilot unlocked the system, but Hart said the second step occurred "without being commanded."

"What we know is that after it was unlocked, the feathers moved into the deploy position, and two seconds later, we saw disintegration," Hart said.

The finding moves away from initial speculation that an explosion brought down the craft.

The investigation is months from being completed, and officials are looking at factors that include pilot error, mechanical failure, design problems and

whether pressure existed to continue testing, Hart said.

"We are not edging toward anything. We're not ruling anything out," he said. "We are looking at

ground and is hospitalized with injuries.

Investigators have not interviewed Siebold because of his condition, Hart said.

Virgin Galactic — owned

He still plans to be on the maiden voyage, with his family.

"We need to be absolutely certain our spaceship has been thoroughly tested — and that it will

tanks and rocket engine showed no sign of being burned or breached, the NTSB said.

The feathering system is a feature unique to the craft to help it slow as it re-enters the atmosphere. After being unlocked, a lever must be pulled to rotate the twin feathers toward a nearly vertical position to act as a brake. After decelerating, the pilots reconfigure the feathers to their normal position so the craft can glide to Earth.

A review of footage from a camera mounted to the ceiling of the spaceship's cockpit showed the co-pilot moving the feathering lever to the unlock position, Hart said. The feathers activated at Mach 1.0, the speed of sound, or 760 mph (1,220 kph), Hart said. They should not have deployed until the craft had reached a speed of at least Mach 1.4, or more than 1,000 mph (1,610 kph).

Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides issued a statement Sunday to tamp down on conjecture about the cause of the crash.

"Now is the time to focus on all those affected by this tragic accident and to work with the experts at the NTSB, to get to the bottom of what happened on that tragic day, and to learn from it so that we can move forward safely with this important mission," he said. SpaceShipTwo has been under development for years and has seen setbacks. In 2007, an explosion killed three people and critically injured three others during a ground test in the development of a rocket engine. □



Virgin Galactic pilot Todd Ericson, right, talks with NTSB Acting Chairman Christopher A. Hart, second from left, at the SpaceShipTwo accident site with investigators in Mojave, Calif. The cause of Friday's crash of Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo has not been determined, but investigators found the "feathering" system, which rotates the tail to create drag, was activated before the craft reached the appropriate speed, National Transportation Safety Board Acting Chairman Christopher Hart said. (AP Photo/NTSB)

all these issues to determine the root cause of this accident."

The co-pilot, Michael Alsbury, 39, was killed in the crash. Pilot Peter Siebold, 43, parachuted to the

by billionaire Richard Branson's Virgin Group and Aabar Investments PJS of Abu Dhabi — plans to fly up to six passengers at a time more than 62 miles (100 kilometers) above Earth, where they can experience weightlessness. The company sells seats on each prospective journey for \$250,000.

Branson told Sky News on Monday that the company will move forward despite the crash. He said there would be a "whole massive series of test flights" before any trips are made.

be — and once it's thoroughly tested, and we can go to space, we will go to space," Branson said.

"We must push on. There are incredible things that can happen through mankind being able to explore space properly," he said.

SpaceShipTwo tore apart Friday about 11 seconds after it detached from the underside of its jet-powered mother ship and fired its rocket engine for the test flight. Initial speculation was that an explosion occurred, but the fuel and oxidizer

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Rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight appears in court on a traffic warrant in Las Vegas following his arrest as a fugitive in a California robbery case.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

## Suge Knight hospitalized after fall in Las Vegas jail

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Rap music figure Marion "Suge" Knight will post bail and return to California to face a robbery charge following treatment at a Las Vegas hospital for a blood clot in his chest discovered after he fell in jail, his attorneys said Monday.

A judge set bail at \$75,000 for the 49-year-old Knight, who attorneys Richard Schonfeld and Julie Raye said also was being treated for a painful bruise on the back of his head and neck after falling back against a metal post while doctors checked him in jail on Thursday for dizziness and chest pain. "I don't think there's anything life-threatening," Raye told reporters outside court, "but they're concerned about the blood clot in the lung area."

She and Schonfeld said they expected Knight would post bail by the end of the day. Raye traced Knight's medical problems to six bullet wounds she said Knight suffered in an early Aug. 24 shooting at a West Hollywood nightclub. Two other people also were injured in the gunfire at 10AK on Sunset Boulevard. Authorities have not identified a suspect. Raye said she visited Knight in the hospital on Friday and Sunday. She said Knight had said he felt short of breath Thursday before appearing before a Las Vegas judge who reduced a June 2013 suspended license charge

to a parking ticket and fined Knight \$190 on what had been a suspended license warrant. The traffic charge against Knight surfaced when he was arrested Wednesday in Las Vegas and comedian Katt Williams was arrested in the Los Angeles area on a felony warrant issued the day before based on a celebrity photographer's complaint that they stole her camera Sept. 5 in Beverly Hills. Schonfeld told Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Joe M. Bonaventure that Knight was unaware of the warrant when he traveled to Las Vegas. Raye said Knight passed out in a jail cell before doctors connected him to an electrocardiogram heart monitor, and he was standing in a treatment room when he fell. Knight's Death Row Records was on the leading edge of rap music in the 1990s. Knight has prior felony convictions for armed robbery and assault with a gun. He pleaded no contest in 1995 and was sentenced to five years' probation for assaulting two rap entertainers at a Hollywood recording studio in 1992. He was sentenced in February 1997 to prison for violating terms of that probation by taking part in a fight at a Las Vegas hotel hours before rap star Tupac Shakur was fatally wounded in a drive-by attack as he rode in Knight's car just east of the Las Vegas Strip. Shakur's slaying remains unsolved. □

## Swift pulls her music from Spotify

DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Spotify stopped streaming Taylor Swift's music at her request Monday, setting up a business struggle between the industry's most popular artist and the leading purveyor of a new music distribution system.

The music streaming service, in a statement, sounded like a spurned boyfriend in a statement announcing the split. The company said Swift's management

is simultaneously making a political statement and a savvy business move.

More than 700,000 people bought "1989" in the first two days it went on sale last week, according to Nielsen SoundScan. That already exceeds the year's biggest one-week seller, Coldplay's "Ghost Stories," which sold 383,000 in May. David Bakula, Nielsen music analyst, said Swift is on pace to challenge the 1.2 million copies she sold the

out, although she didn't remove her entire catalogue and "Red" eventually appeared on Spotify. This summer, Swift wrote in the Wall Street Journal that artists should fight to be paid what they are worth.

"Music is art, and art is important and rare," Swift wrote in the Journal. "Important, rare things are valuable. Valuable things should be paid for. It's my opinion that music should not be free, and my prediction is that individual



Taylor Swift performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" in Times Square in New York. The music streaming service Spotify is no longer offering Taylor Swift songs at her request, setting up a battle between the industry's most popular artist and the leading purveyor of a new music distribution system. Spotify, which pulled Swift's songs on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, said that "we hope she'll change her mind and join us in building a new music economy that works for everyone."

(Greg Allen/Invision/AP)

told it to pull the music late last week and it was done Monday, so all of her songs are no longer available to Spotify's 40 million users. Swift's single, "Shake It Off," was the most-played song on Spotify last week.

"We were both young when we first saw you, but now there's more than 40 million of us who want you to stay, stay, stay," Spotify said. "It's a love story, baby. Just say yes."

Swift's spokeswoman did not immediately return a call for comment.

The decision means that a large number of fans will have only one option to hear "1989," and that's to buy it — which hundreds of thousands of people have already done. Mu-

first week her last album, "Red," went on sale.

Music streaming services and file sharing have sharply cut into music sales for artists over the past couple of years. Many artists complain that the fees Spotify pays to record labels and music publishers, with a portion eventually funneled to musicians, is too small. The "1989" album has never streamed on Spotify, although "Shake It Off" was allowed on the service. All of the music Swift has officially released in her career, including "Shake It Off," was pulled on Monday.

Swift's move has precedence. She briefly pulled "Red" from Spotify around the time that album came

artists and their labels will someday decide what an album's price point is. I hope they don't underestimate themselves or undervalue their art."

Spotify says that nearly 70 percent of the revenue it receives from paying customers goes back to rights-holders in the form of royalty payments, and the more people who pay for Spotify, the more money artists get. People pay \$9.99 a month for Spotify's premium streaming service.

But artists are getting more vocal in their complaints about how music streaming is damaging their ability to make a living. Singer Rosanne Cash, in a Facebook post this fall, called music streaming "dressed-up piracy." □



# American icon Sesame Street marks 45th birthday

**BETH J. HARPAZ**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — You don't get to be the longest-running children's show in U.S. TV history by doing the same thing over and over. So even though parents who grew up watching "Sesame Street" can still see old favorites like Big Bird, things on the street have changed since the show debuted 45 years ago on Nov. 10, 1969.

Cookie Monster now exercises self-control and sometimes eats fruits and vegetables. Millions of kids watch the show on phones and computers instead of TV. And there's less time spent on the street with human characters. They're just not energetic enough for today's viewers.

In Britain, a BBC kids' show, "Blue Peter," is even older — on since 1958 — but that "Sesame Street" still exists in the U.S. at all, given the competition here, says a lot. In 1973, it was one of two shows on U.S. television for preschoolers. Now it's competing with 84 kids' shows on TV and countless others online. Yet "Sesame Street" still holds its own, ranking 20th among kids ages 2 to 5 with 850,000 viewers per TV episode, according to Sesame Work-

shop, the nonprofit organization behind the show. But now half the viewers watch it in digital formats. Options include SesameStreet.org, PBSKids.org, Netflix, Amazon, iTunes and

tive reinforcement. "Sesame Street" also has the highest "co-viewing" experience — meaning adults watching with kids — of any preschool show: 49 percent of "Sesame Street"

references that 2-year-olds don't get, but adults do. A James Bond parody stars Cookie Monster as a secret agent, Double-Stuffed 7, in "The Spy Who Loved Cookies." Another show

the few shows in the 1970s to feature all races and ethnicities. Today the show also routinely features children with disabilities.

Parents whose kids watch old episodes may be puzzled by warnings that the material may be inappropriate for today's children. But remember "Monsterpiece Theater," a parody of PBS' "Masterpiece Theater"? Back in the day, Cookie Monster hosted the show as Alistair Cookie, and he had a pipe, imitating the real show's human host Alistair Cooke. Cookie Monster gobbled the pipe up rather than smoking it, but any reference to smoking is now unacceptable.

"Sesame Street" also is unique because before any scripts are written, child development experts offer input on what today's kids need to succeed in school. That's why in addition to teaching letters, numbers and values, the show now teaches behaviors like impulse control and listening to directions.

"Cookie Monster has been our poster child for self-regulation because of his love of cookies," said Parente. The puppet sometimes now eats fruits and vegetables instead — although he may also devour the plate, table and chair.

Elmo also remains a central part of the show, despite a real-world scandal in which three men accused the puppeteer behind Elmo, Kevin Clash, of underage sexual abuse. Those lawsuits were dismissed in 2013 because the statute of limitations on the accusations had run out. Not all of today's parents love "Sesame Street." Some say it simply doesn't keep their kids' attention. Daphne Mallory, a mother of four in Twin Falls, Idaho, grew up watching "Sesame Street" but says her four children don't. "It lost its relevance," she said. "It's geared toward engaging the parents watching the program with their children, rather than truly educating the children. While I appreciate celebrity appearances, I find it distracting more than adding to the experience." □



**"Sesame Street" characters Elmo and Super Grover, right, pose with four new muppets in New York. Sesame Street continues to attract millions of viewers after 45 years on the air, appealing to both preschoolers and their parents with content that is educational and entertaining. The show first aired Nov. 10, 1969.**  
(AP Photo/Sesame Workshop, Richard Termine)

some 50 apps. A "Sesame Street" YouTube channel has a million subscribers and 1.5 billion views. And touchscreens have been "a magic wand for us in terms of engagement," says "Sesame Street" senior vice president Scott Chambers. Kids can trace letters or point to colors or shapes, and the app provides posi-

viewers are over age 18. "We're very proud of that," said Chambers. "We design the show to engage the parent because we know that's more educational. If you have a parent watching with you, you're going to learn much more." That's why sketches often have contemporary celebrity guests or pop culture

celebrates "what makes people special," with Elmo telling Lupita Nyong'o that her skin "is a beautiful brown color." The actress responds, "Skin comes in lots of beautiful shades and colors ... I love my skin!" It's a classic "Sesame Street" lesson about diversity that goes back to its groundbreaking roots as one of

## Jay Leno back on 'Tonight' for a night

**DAVID BAUDER**  
**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jay Leno is coming back to the "Tonight" show — at least for one night.

The show's former host will be a guest on Jimmy Fallon's version of "Tonight" on Friday. It will be the first time he's been back at the NBC institution since signing off after nearly 22 years as host last February. Fallon moved the show from California to New York and quickly established himself as the new king of late-night TV.

Leno briefly appeared in one of Fallon's TV parodies, "House of Cue Cards," but has not returned as a guest.

There was some talk after Leno left that he might

make a guest appearance on David Letterman's competing CBS show. That hasn't happened yet, but the "Late Show" said Leno has a "standing offer" to appear before Letterman retires next year.

For his first time back in late-night, Leno remained loyal to NBC. Next year he's starting a new CNBC series talking about cars, "Jay Leno's Garage."

One topic of conversation for his "Tonight" appearance likely will be his recent acceptance of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. He was given the award in Washington last month in a ceremony that will be televised on PBS on Nov. 23.

Leno reigned as "Tonight" host from 1992 to 2014,



**Jay Leno, left, and Jimmy Fallon backstage at the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. Leno will be a guest on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," on Friday, Nov. 7.**  
(Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

with a brief break in 2009-10 when Conan O'Brien took over and Leno was given an ill-fated prime-time show. His exit this year was more NBC's timetable

than Leno's, and it has worked out well for the network.

Lucy Liu and Kevin Delaney also will be guests on Fallon's show on Friday. □



## Our Machine Masters



### DAVID BROOKS

© 2014 New York Times

Some days I think nobody knows me as well as Pandora. I create a new music channel around some band or song and Pandora feeds me a series of songs I like just as well. In fact, it often feeds me songs I'd already downloaded onto my phone from iTunes. Either my musical taste is extremely conventional or Pandora is really good at knowing what I like.

In the current issue of *Wired*, the technology writer Kevin Kelly says that we had all better get used to this level of predictive prowess. Kelly argues that the age of artificial intelligence is finally at hand.

He writes that the smart machines of the future won't be humanlike geniuses like HAL 9000 in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey." They will be more modest machines that will drive your car, translate foreign languages, organize your photos, recommend entertainment options and maybe diagnose your illnesses.

"Everything that we formerly electrified we will now cognize," Kelly writes. Even more than today, we'll lead our lives enmeshed with machines that do some of our thinking tasks for us. This artificial intelligence breakthrough, he argues, is being driven by cheap parallel computation technologies, big data collection and better algorithms. The upshot is clear, "The business plans of the next 10,000 startups are easy to forecast: Take X and add A.I."

Two big implications flow from this. The first is sociological. If knowledge is power, were about to see an even greater concentration of power.

The Internet is already heralding a new era of centralization. As Astra Taylor points out in her book, "The People's Platform," in 2001, the top 10 websites accounted for 31 percent of all U.S. page views, but, by 2010, they accounted for 75 percent of them. Gigantic companies like Google swallow up smaller ones. The Internet has created a long tail, but almost all the revenue and power is among the small elite at the head.

Advances in artificial intelligence will accelerate this centralizing trend. That's because A.I. companies will be able to reap the rewards of network effects. The bigger their network and the more data they collect, the

more effective and attractive they become.

As Kelly puts it, "Once a company enters this virtuous cycle, it tends to grow so big, so fast, that it overwhelms any upstart competitors. As a result, our A.I. future is likely to be ruled by an oligarchy of two or three large, general-purpose cloud-based commercial intelligences."

To put it more menacingly, engineers at a few gigantic companies will have vast-though-hidden power to shape how data are collected and framed, to harvest huge amounts of information, to build the frameworks through which the rest of us make decisions and to steer our choices. If you think this power will be used for entirely benign ends, then you have not read enough history.

The second implication is philosophical. A.I. will redefine what it means to be human. Our identity as humans is shaped by what machines and other animals can't do. For the last few centuries, reason was seen as the ultimate human faculty. But now machines are better at many of the tasks we associate with thinking - like playing chess, winning at Jeopardy, and doing math. On the other hand, machines cannot beat us at the things we do without conscious thinking: developing tastes and affections, mimicking each other and building emotional attachments, experiencing imaginative breakthroughs, forming moral sentiments.

In the age of smart machines, we're not human because we have big brains. We're human because we have social skills, emotional capacities and moral intuitions. I could paint two divergent A.I. futures, one deeply humanistic, and one soullessly utilitarian.

In the humanistic one, machines liberate us from mental drudgery so we can focus on higher and happier things.

In this future, differences in innate IQ are less important. Everybody has Google on their phones so having a great memory or the ability to calculate with big numbers doesn't help as much. In this future, there is increasing emphasis on personal and moral faculties: being likable, industrious, trustworthy and affectionate. People are evaluated more on these traits, which supplement machine thinking, and not the rote ones that duplicate it.

In the cold, utilitarian future, on the other hand, people become less idiosyncratic. If the choice architecture behind many decisions is based on big data from vast crowds, everybody follows the prompts and chooses to be like each other.

The machine prompts us to consume what is popular, the things that are easy and mentally undemanding.

I'm happy Pandora can help me find what I like. I'm a little nervous if it so pervasively shapes my listening that it ends up determining what I like. I think we all want to master these machines, not have them master us. □



## How Obama Lost America



### ROSS DOUTHAT

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The 2014 midterms have featured many variables and one constant. Whether they're running as incumbents or challengers, campaigning in blue or red or purple states, Democratic candidates have all been dragging an anchor: a president from their party whose approval ratings haven't been north of 45 percent since last October.

The interesting question is why. You may recall that Mitt Romney built his entire 2012 campaign strategy around the assumption that a terrible economy would suffice to deny Barack Obama a second term.

Yet throughout 2012, with the unemployment rate still up around 8 percent, Obama's approval numbers stayed high enough (the mid-to-upper 40s) to ultimately win. Whereas today the unemployment rate has fallen to 6 percent, a number Team Obama would have traded David Axelrod's right kidney for two years ago, but the White House hasn't benefited: The public's confidence is gone, and it doesn't seem to be coming back.

So when and how was it lost? When President Bush's second-term job approval numbers tanked, despite decent-at-the-time economic numbers, the explanation was easy: It was Iraq, Iraq, Iraq. But nothing quite so pat presents itself in Obama's case, so here are four partial the-

ories instead.

He gets blamed for Republican intransigence.

This is the explanation that many Obama partisans favor, because it lets him mostly off the hook. The theory is that with the country as polarized as it is, and with the public inclined to blame the president for gridlock, the natural state for presidential approval ratings is a kind of regression toward the low 40s. This regression can be interrupted only by either some major unforeseen event or the emergence of a challenger - Romney for Obama, John Kerry for George W. Bush - who reminds voters that they dislike the other party more. But once the challenger is beaten, the process resumes: Just as Bush's post-9/11 ratings declined steadily except when Kerry was on the scene, so too Obama's numbers were doomed to decay once he won a second term.

It's the economy - yes, still.

This explanation raises an eyebrow at the last one and says, come on: If the economy were enjoying a 1990s-style boom, surely Obama would have a decent chance at Clinton-level approval ratings, gridlock or no gridlock! But even with the improving employment picture this recovery is still basically a disappointment, especially for the middle class.

So the contrast between Obama's position in 2012 and his weaker one today isn't necessarily a case study in the economy not mattering. It's an example of voter patience persisting for a while, and finally running out. It's Obamacare - yes, still.

This is the closest equivalent to Bush and the Iraq War: The health care law is Obama's signature issue, it remains largely unpopular (even if support for full repeal is weak), and its initial stumbling coincided with the sharpest second-term drop in the president's approval. Fixing the website may have stabilized the system, but by design Obamacare still creates many losers as well as winners, and a persistent dissatisfaction

with shifts in coverage and costs could be the crucial drag keeping Americans dissatisfied with their president as well.

It's foreign policy - and competence. One of the interesting features of the 2012 campaign was that as much as the economy made Obama's sales pitch challenging, he had an edge that Democratic politicians often lack: The public trusted him on foreign policy.

But that trust began to erode with the Edward Snowden affair, it eroded further during our non-attack on Bashar Assad last fall, and recent events in Ukraine and Iraq have essentially made Obama's position irrecoverable: His approval rating on foreign policy is around 35 percent in most recent polling.

But this harsh judgment probably isn't explicitly ideological: The public isn't necessarily turning neoconservative or pining for the days of Bush. Instead, it mostly reflects a results-based verdict on what seems like poor execution, in which the White House's slow response to the Islamic State is of a piece with the Obamacare rollout and the VA scandal and various other second-term asleep-at-the-tiller moments.

It's a problem of leadership that reflects badly on liberalism but doesn't necessarily vindicate conservatism.

And it's because it isn't explicitly ideological that the Democrats still have a chance in many states on Tuesday. From North Carolina to New Hampshire to Georgia, their candidates are being tugged downward by the Obama anchor, but they're still bobbing, still only half-submerged, waiting for undecideds to break (or just stay home).

In many ways, Republicans have enjoyed in 2014 the kind of landscape they expected in 2012: a landscape in which nobody save Democratic partisans particularly supports Obama anymore. What we're about to find out is whether, amid that disillusionment, just being the not-Obama party is enough. □





## Skip check-in; latest hotel room key is your phone

A mobile check-in option is offered for travelers at the main check-in counter at the Marriott Marquis Times Square hotel in New York. Marriott International launched the ability to check in through its app at 330 North American hotels last year. By the end of this year, the program will be live at all 4,000 hotels worldwide.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

### SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Business Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — Hotels don't want guests to have to linger at the front desk — or even stop by at all.

New programs are helping speed up the check-in process for busy travelers, or in at least one case, letting them go straight to their rooms by using their smartphone to unlock doors.

The innovations are still being tweaked as hotels scramble to catch up to airlines. Fliers today use their phones to check in, select seats and as a boarding pass. Hotels envision a similar relationship, with guests ultimately ordering poolside drinks via an app.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts on Monday became the first chain to let guests unlock doors with their phones. The feature is available at only 10 Aloft, Element and W hotels but will expand to 140 more properties in those brands by the middle of next year.

Hilton Worldwide is the only other hotel chain to publicly

acknowledge plans for mobile room keys — which it plans to roll out at the end of 2015 at more than 250 U.S. properties in its Hilton, Waldorf Astoria, Conrad and Canopy brands.

"Guests want this because it makes their lives simpler," says Mark Vondrasek, who oversees the loyalty program and digital initiatives for Starwood. "The ability to go right to your room, gives them back time."

Other hotel companies are finding other ways to streamline the arrival process. Marriott International launched the ability to check in through its app at 330 North American hotels last year. By the end of this year, the program will be live at all 4,000 hotels worldwide. When a room becomes available, a message is sent to the guest's phone. Traditional room keys are pre-programmed and waiting at the front desk. A special express line allows guests to bypass crowds, flash their IDs and get keys.

At Hilton, all 4,000 properties worldwide will have a similar check-in by the end of the year. The one added feature: Guests can use maps on the app to select a specific room. "If you're at the end of a long day, you might want a little less of a chatty experience. But if you're showing up at a new resort, you may want to know what the pool hours are," says Brett Cowell, vice president of information technology for Hyatt, which is testing permanent keys for frequent guests at six hotels. The push isn't just about avoiding frustrating check-in lines. Hotels are trying to get more travelers comfortable using their mobile apps to interact. In some cases, that means using an iPad to request a wakeup call. But ultimately hotels would like to see people purchasing suite upgrades, spa treatments and room service through their phones and tablets — and at some point wearable devices like smartwatches. Marriott guests made \$1.25

billion in bookings last year through its mobile app, according to George Corbin, senior vice president of digital for the company.

Switching to smartphone room keys won't be easy. Starwood's app communicates using a Bluetooth data connection. Each hotel room needs to have a new lock that can communicate with phones.

The top 15 hotel companies have more than 42,000 properties worldwide with a combined 5.2 million rooms, according to travel research firms STR and STR Global. Many hotels have made updates over the past few years, but they remain the minority.

Then there is the issue of security. If there is knock on the door late at night and a guest goes to the peephole to see who is there, nobody wants the phone in their pocket to accidentally unlock the door. That's why Starwood requires the phone to actually touch a pad on the outside of the door to open it.

Finally, only one phone can be linked to a room at a time. So if two people are staying in the room, they still need to get a traditional key for the second traveler. Marriott says it is holding off on smartphone keys until all the potential bugs can be resolved. "If there was ever a moment that matters," Corbin says, "it's the moment when you go up to your door and the key doesn't work."

But for the frequent business traveler, this might just be the time-saver they are looking for. Bruce Craven spends about 100 nights a year on the road, traveling between his California home and New York where he does executive training programs and teaches at Columbia Business School. He's been testing Starwood's smartphone room key since March.

"If you're traveling all the time, little things can take on a symbolic importance," Craven says. "This is one less thing that I need to think about." □